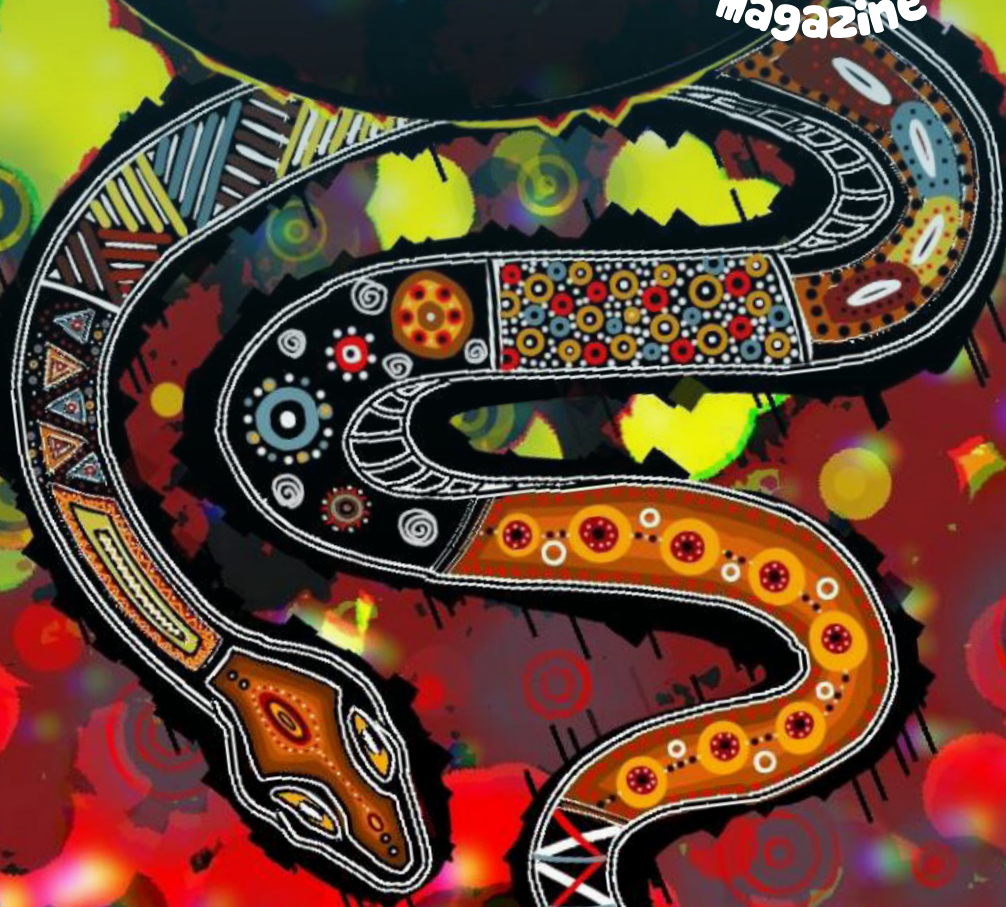


Edition 2 2023

club

# create

magazine



WIN lots of prizes!

**NAIDOC WEEK ARTWORK BY JAMES, CREATE YOUNG CONSULTANT**



Hi clubCREATE-ers,

In the past few months the Leadership Committee has been busy working on some great new initiatives for young people, including internships, mentoring, a national YAG, a First Nations YAG, and training young people to sit on CREATE interview panels.

I am excited to announce our conference theme and date: "Voices in Action: Your Stories, Stronger Together". It will be held in Adelaide, South Australia in March 2024. More details to come very soon, so make sure your details are up to date so you don't miss out on any information. You can email [clubcreate@create.org.au](mailto:clubcreate@create.org.au) with your new contact details at any time if they need updating.

In this edition we have a NAIDOC Week theme, as well as meeting Young Consultants, our new Board member Adina and more.

Don't forget to enter our competitions for the chance to win a prize. We love seeing your artwork!

*Jacqui Reed*

Head Honcho



## Acknowledgement of Country

CREATE would like to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's first people and Traditional Custodians. We value their cultures, identities, and continuing connection to country, waters, kin and community.



4

8



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EDITION 2 2023

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## clubCREATE's Editorial Policy

clubCREATE Magazine is produced by CREATE Foundation for children and young people in care. This magazine contains information about CREATE programs that create a better life for kids in care and also has articles and artworks by clubCREATE members. It's really important to us that children and young people in care are safe and protected and we do our utmost to ensure their privacy. For safety

reasons state laws don't allow the faces of kids in care to be published without proper permission. So please understand that if these young people are not reflective of the story or blurred it is for safety and legal reasons. All contributions to be considered for the magazine can be submitted by email: [clubcreate@create.org.au](mailto:clubcreate@create.org.au) or post: Reply Paid 87694, Spring Hill QLD 4004. If you do not want to receive newsletter

and program information from CREATE Foundation please email [clubcreate@create.org.au](mailto:clubcreate@create.org.au) or phone CREATE on 1800 655 105 to have your address removed from our mailing list.



# IN THE LOOP



## National Families Week

"Living Real, Dreaming Big" was the theme for National Families Week 2023. Living Real promotes some of the practical, supportive strategies and resources available to foster resilience in individuals, in families, and in communities. Dreaming Big is a celebration of family, and firmly places resilience as a central building block of individual and community wellbeing.

## Disability Pride Month

July is an occasion to celebrate people with disabilities, honour their inherent dignity and inalienable rights, promote their visibility, and applaud their achievements. July is also a powerful reminder about the importance of disability rights and why we fight for them.

## Pride Month

Here at CREATE we just love seeing all the rainbows out for Pride Month. We support each and every one of you to be who you want to be.

# MEET BREE

CREATE in Western Australia is delighted to have the chance to interview one of our Young Consultants about her goals for the future. Breanna Sykes (Bree for short) has been a CREATE member since 2012. Bree began her Speak Up journey in 2018. Since completing all 3 levels of Speak Up and being a Young Consultant the last five years, Bree has been involved in a number of projects to use her voice and also to promote the voices of other children and young people with a care experience.

*"My future is not certain, but one thing I know, my goal is to help people."*



Bree is using the skills she has gained from completing Speak Up to make a change to the lives of children and young people with a care experience.

Bree was invited to be part of the Youth Parliament in WA, which is an amazing achievement in itself considering the large number of applicants. Bree and her fellow Youth MPs are working to create a Bill for children and young people. The Bill they are collectively creating is looking at areas like reforming services for young mothers to remove the stigma and fear of engagement, and ensuring that trauma informed care training is mandatory when working with children and young people. Bree is putting her public speaking skills and knowledge into practice to work towards making a positive change.

As a young mother herself, Bree is interested in removing the stigma, risk and fear young parents have when they access supports.

We are very proud of the work Bree has done and will continue to do when she ages out of CREATE.

# NAIDOC WEEK 2023:

## FOR OUR ELDERS

Yuggera Country



Gadigal People of the Eora Nation



Kombumerri Country

## FEET ON COUNTRY

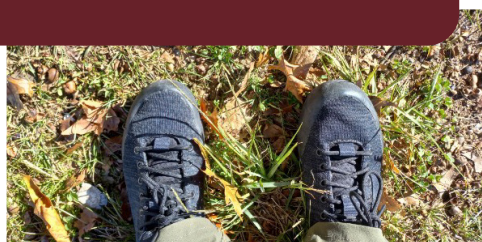
Yuggera and Turrbal Country



Gubbi Gubbi Country



Ngunnawal Country



*"It's so different to see kids who have opportunity to go back and connect with country; it's a different lens, it's organic and beautiful, and you can see it change kids. We don't see it happen in care."*

*"Every kid in care should know their language, their culture, know where they're from, practice our grieving protocols - when it comes to supervision, all Aboriginal kids should have Nunga workers."*

Quotes from CREATE's submission for the Inquiry into the Removal and Placement of Aboriginal Children in Out-of-Home Care in South Australia

*"One social worker that helped me, she grew up in Aboriginal community so she was connected, she advocated for me more than a social worker should, she maintained regular contact with my grandmother. I was 7 or 8 years old the first time I stepped foot on country at Raukkan; the first step I felt so relaxed and then I met about 30 aunties who knew me. The day I went back to country I was at peace, I felt I knew who I was, where I belong."*

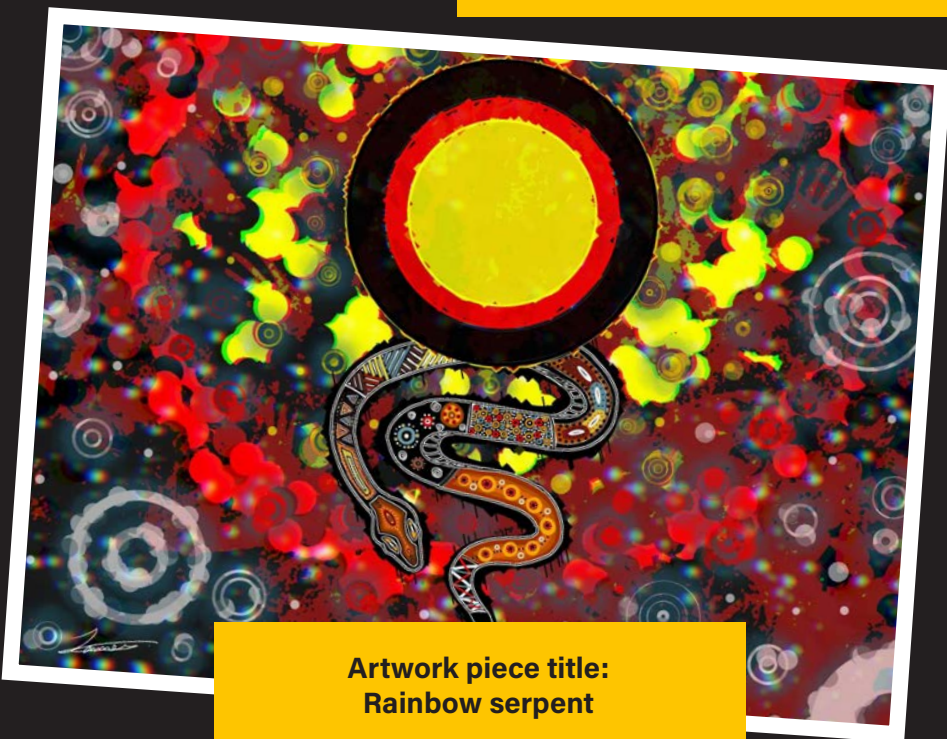


# NAIDOC WEEK

In Aboriginal culture, it is believed that a rainbow serpent (Ngalyod), is both life and death itself in the driest places. For the serpent would visit through waterholes or sky and be worshipped as it gave storms, rains and high winds. However do not anger the serpent or you will be smite down by it, drowning awaits those who disrespect.

*"In this piece I incorporated a story passed down generations. A great being of power in the most driest of places, The Rainbow Serpent. (Incorporated from dreamtime story inspiration) As well as hand cave painting inspirations and the well known Aboriginal flag. (I have drawn a lot of circles mainly to represent waterholes or meetup spots.) This piece was a beautiful one to create for me as I don't get much time to be in touch with my heritage."*

- James, CREATE Young Consultant



Artwork piece title:  
Rainbow serpent

# ADVOCACY

## Voice to Parliament:

Later this year, 2023, Australians will have their say in a Referendum where people vote to express their opinion or preference on an issue. This Referendum is to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the Constitution through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament (sort of like an advisory body). The Constitution is the set of rules and principles that outline the structure and powers of the federal government.

# YES!

CREATE Foundation is dedicated to giving a voice to vulnerable children and young people with a care experience in order to be heard by influential decision makers to affect change. In light of the current historical moment, where our nation is deliberating on granting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People a Voice enshrined in the Australian Constitution, CREATE strongly advocates for the right of First Nations People to have a say within the Constitution.

**For further information please head here:**

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/reconciliation/support-a-voice-to-parliament/>

# Meet some CREATE mates



## Tell us about yourself!

### What's your role?

I am the National Practice and Research Lead at Whitelion Youth in Victoria and that means that I make sure all the Youth Workers are doing the best job that they can and making sure that young people are at the centre of their role.

### Why are you a CREATE Mate?

Because I believe in the work that CREATE does and that all children and young people with a care experience should be at the table whenever there is any discussion around the care sector.

## What's something you're passionate about in the care sector? What's something you're proud of?

I am passionate about young people having a voice in their own care journey and in how to change the system. I am proud of the work that I did when I worked at CREATE on a project called CREATEing Equality - to make care better for LGBTIQ+ young people.

## Everyone's a bit wacky in their own way. What's a fun fact about you?

I have a weird obsession with space and black holes that no one can explain!

Lara Gerrand | They/Them  
Whitelion Youth



## Tell us about yourself!

### What's your role?

I am a lawyer who has worked in the child protection sector for nearly 20 years in Australia and in the United Kingdom. My first job in the care sector was in Scotland. They have an amazing system that really supports young people to participate in decisions that affect them and it ignited my passion for the care sector. I am currently working at the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing in Victoria as the Director of the Statewide Child Protection Litigation Office, which provides legal advice and advocacy services to child protection practitioners working with children, young people and families.

### Why are you a CREATE Mate?

I am a CREATE Mate because

CREATE:  
Celebrates  
Radiates  
Evaluates  
Advocates  
Translates  
Elevates

## What's something you're passionate about in the care sector?

One of my passions is that all children and young people leaving care feel they have been genuinely heard in decision-making that affects them and that they have been able to participate in a way that is effective, meaningful and safe!  
#nothingaboutmewithoutme.

## What's something you're proud of?

Working on a landmark human rights case in Scotland that went all the way to the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom that strengthened participation rights of families in child protection proceedings.

## Everyone's a bit wacky in their own way. What's a fun fact about you?

I asked my husband what was wacky about me and he said I am the only person he has ever seen cleaning their teeth in the car (whilst being a passenger not driving of course!)

Georgina Thomas  
Dept of Families, Fairness and  
Housing VIC





# MEET ADINA



## Who is our new Board member?

My name is Adina Gunnis, and I'm excited to announce that I have been appointed to the CREATE Foundation Board.

## What does it mean to you to be on the CREATE Board?

I am really, really excited for this opportunity to not only represent other young people with lived experience, but to share my own experience in a professional setting at that leadership level.

## How did you get involved with CREATE?

I started with CREATE in around 2012 with the Tim Carmody Inquiry into Child Protection in Queensland. I participated with other CREATE Young Consultants in a focus group discussing our stories and our experiences in the care system. From that experience, I learned that my voice is important and people did want to hear about me as a young person with a care experience.

## If there are any young people out there who are a little hesitant to get involved with CREATE, what would you say to them?

With all the new opportunities happening, I would say just take a leap and give it a go. You'll never know where it could take you, just like it has taken me to all these incredible places with my career and my development.

# #SNAPTHATSTIGMA

How I snapped the stigma of growing up in care was I prioritised my self worth daily and reminded myself that my 'background' will never define me, I've always stayed future focused and looked at every negativity I've endured and overcome as a life lesson and a point of growth and self development.

Whilst growing up in care I was able to concentrate on my education and my passion for performing arts, completing my VCE education and focusing on my singing, dancing, acting and modelling since leaving school and in home care.

I work full time as a medical secretary, on weekends I'm a children's party entertainer and on days where I can make fit or use my annual leave, I compete in modelling competitions and partake in my photoshoots.



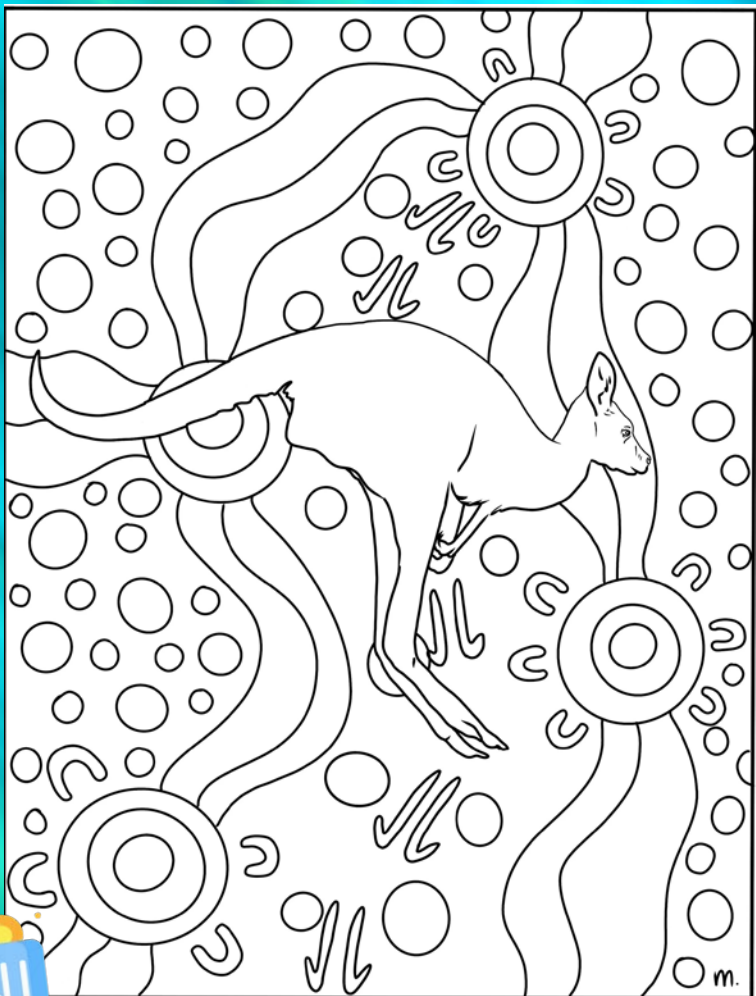
**"I'm a firm believer in 'If you can dream it, you can do it!'"**

Stay positive and know your worth, focus on your ambitions and don't let anything or anyone stop you from achieving the greatness and potential you deserve!

- Brittany

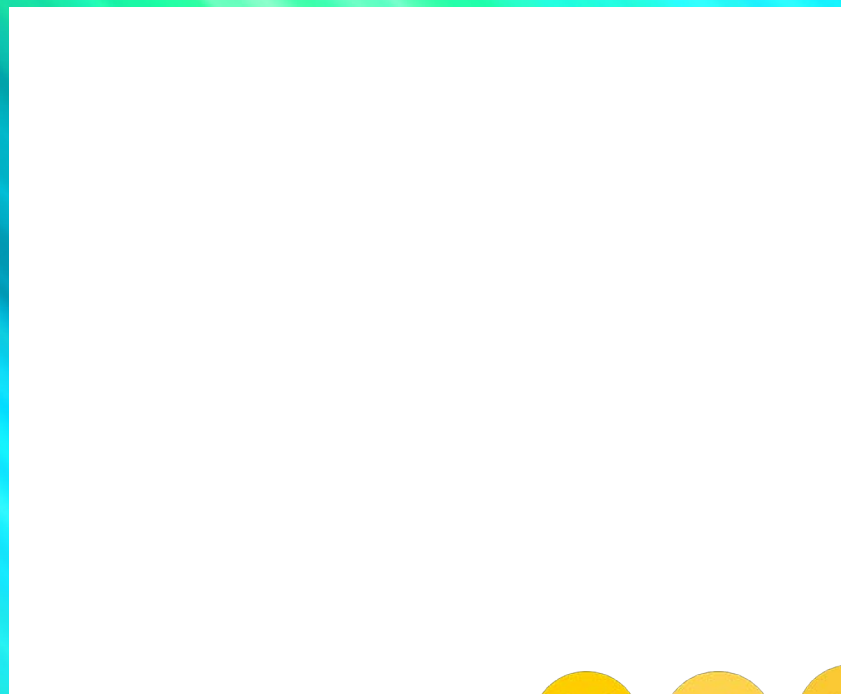
# WIN! THE FUN ZONE

Colouring in artwork by @mulganai



# CHALLENGE WIN!

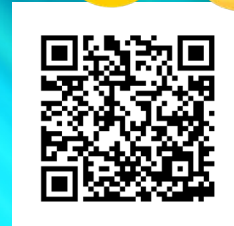
Design our next mag cover!



## SMILEY SURVEY



Fill in this survey  
to go in the draw  
for prizes



WIN!

To enter this competition:

1. Send your entry via email to [clubCREATE@create.org.au](mailto:clubCREATE@create.org.au)
2. Send us a message on Instagram @CREATEfnd or Facebook /CREATEfnd
3. Enter on our website at [www.create.org.au/competitions](http://www.create.org.au/competitions)
4. Post it back to us free of charge! Send to Reply Paid 87694 SPRING HILL QLD 4004

Entries close July 21 2023. Make sure you include your name and age, and if you know it your clubCREATE ID number. GOOD LUCK!

To enter this competition:

1. Send your entry via email to [clubCREATE@create.org.au](mailto:clubCREATE@create.org.au)
2. Send us a message on Instagram @CREATEfnd or Facebook /CREATEfnd
3. Enter on our website at [www.create.org.au/competitions](http://www.create.org.au/competitions)
4. Post it back to us free of charge! Send to Reply Paid 87694 SPRING HILL QLD 4004

Entries close July 21 2023. Make sure you include your name and age, and if you know it your clubCREATE ID number. GOOD LUCK!

WIN!



# ACT ROUND UP

What's been happening?

The last few months have been super busy in the ACT, with three Connection Events, three YAGs, two Speak Ups, and a CREATE Your Future event all in the March-April period - there's definitely something on for everyone!

Highlights included some enthusiastic roleplay engagement and learning at the CREATE Your Future session, and the BBQ in the Park Connection Event, with children, young people, and families learning a heap of super fun circus tricks. The post-YAG bouldering session at BlocHaus was also a high point, with huge support from the attendees in helping each other to overcome their nerves and solve some challenging climbs. The ACT CREATE community is a welcoming one, and I'd like to say a big thanks to everyone who has contributed to this by coming along.

## Coming up

Upcoming events include a disco Connection Event (complete with professional DJ), and a YAG + go-karting. We're looking forward to sharing more experiences with our ACT CREATE community that help to Connect, Empower, and Change.



# NSW ROUND UP

What's been happening?

Time seems to be flying, because we're already close to halfway through the year! Our Christmas event was such a hit that we're wondering if another Christmas in July Connection Event may be worth planning? Let the NSW team know what your ideas are on some cool events that you would like to attend. In the meantime, we'll catch you up on what fun we've been having so far.

So we celebrated #WorldCareDay 2023 and it was so great to see this event come to fruition as it's something we've talked about at some YAGs. We heard what you said that sometimes you just wanna keep it chill and that's what we did at our paint and tie-dye Connection Event in February. We got to create this amazing piece of artwork with those who attended, that proudly reminds us what we're about. To CONNECT, EMPOWER, CHANGE. How awesome is that?! Feel free to pop into our office to see it in person, a huge thanks to everyone who attended and created this with us.

Make sure to stay tuned to our website and our socials as we update you on what other events are coming up. Stay cozy, winter is coming!



## Staff Update:

Recently we farewelled Mohita who we will all miss a lot. We wish her all the best for the future.

# NT ROUND UP

What's been happening?

The last few months for CREATE in the Northern Territory have been filled with fun and excitement.

## Welcome Kate!

The Northern Territory team welcomed Kate to the Darwin office. Kate has moved from Western Australia and has started settling in by meeting some of our amazing CREATE members!

## What's been happening

We had our annual couch surfing race in Darwin and while we weren't victorious, the couch looked awesome and we gave it a great go! For International Women's Day some of our young female CREATE members in Alice Springs joined the Grandmothers of Akeyulerre Healing Centre for an afternoon of storytelling, making bush medicine and enjoying some Kangaroo Tail. YUM! Looking forward, the Darwin team is working alongside some amazing First Nations organisations to put together a NAIDOC Week to remember, while the Alice Springs team is maintaining a strong focus on connecting to culture! Keep an eye out for upcoming events. We can't wait to see you there!



# QLD ROUND UP

What's been happening?

## Advocacy Updates

**SCAN Conference: Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN)** teams do a bunch of work behind the scenes to link up information from all different places like schools, doctors and police to help keep kids safe. Our Young Consultant Jayden gave a speech at the conference around the importance of including the voices and wishes of children and young people in decisions. Jayden sent everyone in the room an incredibly powerful message on best practice, which was a highlight for many. Well done Jayden!

**QFKC Conference in Cairns:** We met some amazing carers from Brisbane all the way up to the cape at the recent Queensland Foster Care and Kinships Care Conference held in Cairns.

## Events Updates

**Ipswich Easter Skating Connection Event:** We had lots of fun participating in the skating games and competitions at SkateAway, one of our favourites was limbo. One of our young people Lilly even won one of the competitions!



## Staff updates

Welcome back Caro! After taking a short stay-cation over the month of March we are so happy to have Caro back working her magic and making sure our QLD young people are in the know around everything CREATE. Best of luck Hope! We've been really sad saying goodbye to the ever-amazing Hope as she heads off on a study adventure to follow her dream of social work. Hope has been with CREATE as both a Young Consultant and as CREATE staff and while she'll be missed we know she is going on to do magnificent things.



## SA ROUND UP

### What's been happening?

This year is racing by and we have been having a blast in our new office as we try new and exciting things like visiting Port Augusta and having a relaxing Paint and Sip at the beautiful Botanic Gardens! Mocktails all around! We want to head back to Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln, and Port Augusta very soon! Give us a shout if you would like to come along for some beautiful food and some fun times!

### Staff Updates

We welcomed a brand-new team member, Kimberley! Please feel free to pop into the office on a Tuesday or a Friday to say hello and welcome her to our team.

We also said goodbye-for-now to our State Coordinator Ash as they go off to learn more about housing for children and young people exiting OOHC.



### What's Been Happening

We had the best time at our Easter YAG where more than 20 of you came to chat about the changes we want made in the care system as well as to have a fab Easter egg hunt.

Our Harmony Day at Christies Beach was a real hit! We got to enjoy an African Drumming Circle, Henna, a petting zoo, basket weaving and a magician!

Sibling Day as always was a gigantic hit! It's so much fun to come together and enjoy each other's company! Fabian visited our Tasmania team for a week and had the best time

### Coming up!

Connection Events: sibling day, Mylor, spooky season

## WA ROUND UP

### What's been happening?

### Meet Casey and Jakob!

Hi everyone, we are the new Program Facilitators here in Western Australia! Casey is fresh to the land from Ireland with a degree in Social Care. She is very passionate to work alongside the children and young people in Western Australia to have their voices heard. Jakob has recently graduated from ECU with a degree in psychology and counselling and is eager to put his knowledge into practice. Casey and Jakob have jumped straight into running CREATE programs and have loved meeting everyone so far. They have had fun days at the Zoo and at Escape This Room as part of their YAG (Youth Advisory Group). And yes we managed to find the treasure to escape the pirates!! They have also been to BOUNCE for a Connection Event. They were networking at engagement events at the outdoor cinema in Burswood with the Foster Care Association and also with YARN for another engagement event. Casey and Jakob are looking forward to many more programs and to meet more CREATE Mates.

### Coming up

We are running many more fun and exciting programmes! We have a regional Connection Event coming up. We have really fun ideas for these programs and it is a great chance for children and young people to speak up and have their voices heard. Check out our Facebook page and emails for upcoming events or email [wa@create.org.au](mailto:wa@create.org.au) or call 03 9918 0002 for more information.



## VIC ROUND UP

What's been happening?

### CREATE in Victoria kicking goals!!

Where do we begin? The Victorian Young Consultants have been involved in some incredible forums and presentations here are just a few;

Talia spoke at the Lookout Education Forum and delivered an incredible speech relating to why young people refuse to go to school and offered fantastic suggestions as to how this can be improved. She was the highlight of the forum!

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing hosted a forum about housing opportunities for young people transitioning from care. Young Consultants Nikita and Hayley spoke at the forum, and Tobias was the MC: all three young people are members of the Youth Expert Advisory Group on transitions from care. Nikita highlighted that safe and stable housing is too often presented as a luxury for young people, rather than a right. Hayley talked about the need to invest more in housing options specifically designed for young people transitioning from care.

The Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (MYAG) had its first meeting with the new Minister for Child Protection, Lizzie Blandthorn. They discussed family reunification responses as well as payments for foster and kinship carers. The next meeting with the Minister will focus on supports for young people transitioning from care.



### But wait, there's more!!

June 27 Connection Event for our Frankston young peeps - details coming soon.

June 29 Connection Event - Collingwood Children's Farm

## TAS ROUND UP

What's been happening?

CREATE in Tasmania have been super busy with several Speak Up workshops being delivered around the State. Well-done to all of the young people completing Speak Up recently, we can't wait to see you put your newly developed leadership skills into action!



We recently held a CREATE Your Future workshop called 'You and Your Peeps' that focused on relationships and supports for children and young people. Following the workshop we had two rounds of mini golf. We had a great turn out with productive discussions around respectful and equal relationships and positive ways to communicate. We have lots more workshops lined up this year and new members are always welcome!

A huge shout out to all the fabulous young people who have attended our Youth Advisory Groups recently. Important topics discussed recently have included breaking down stigma at school, The Department for Children and Young People's Strategic Planning Process and The Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework. Thank you to everyone who has participated, we really value your voices and will continue to share your ideas with key decision makers.

Are you keen to have your voice heard and help us create positive change within the care system? Why not join in on one of our Youth Advisory Groups, we have online and face-to-face options.



# YOU ROCK!

## EDITION 1 2023 WINNERS

OUR COMP WINNERS FROM LAST  
MAG ARE (DRUMROLL PLEASE!):

### THE FUN ZONE

Stuart, NSW  
Mark, NSW  
Mia, SA  
Hope, VIC

### UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

Thomas, VIC  
Jayleen, SA  
Kayla, QLD

CONGRATULATIONS!  
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY  
YOUR VOUCHERS!

**create**  
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information. Other ways to contact CREATE:

1. Become a clubCREATE member and join up  
at [www.create.org.au](http://www.create.org.au)
2. Call your local CREATE office on 1800 655  
105 and talk to one of the team about  
what's coming up.
3. If you are already a clubCREATE member –  
make sure your clubCREATE membership  
details are up-to-date.
4. Visit [www.create.org.au](http://www.create.org.au) to find out more  
about how we can support you.

