



World Care Day 2024

Communications Kit

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About World Care Day

World Care Day is the world's biggest celebration of children who grow up in out-of-home care.

CREATE is amplifying its focus on the crucial 'journey of care' experienced by these young individuals.

There are pivotal stages within a young person's life in care. From the initial entry into the system to the challenging phases such as adjusting to new caseworkers or placements, and eventually transitioning out of care, these moments are critical.

We've learned a lot from listening to young people sharing their experiences.

It's clear that there are areas where our support systems need to improve. By focusing on what they've told us, we aim to strengthen these support structures, ensuring they better cater to the specific needs of young individuals at every stage of their journey through care.

#WorldCareDay24

"It's not just a day to celebrate the policy change we have won, but also to focus on how much more needs to change."

(Young Person, VIC)

"International Care Day is when young people with a care experience can come together and celebrate."

(Young Person, VIC)

What young people tell us

On entering care

“I got one of these backpacks when I first came into care and it was really nice getting it.”

“To feel safe, support from a dog, a picture of the house, photos of his family, memory book, social workers have to be nice, know where to go in the house, pet at the house, meet new people, hugs and kisses...”



During Care

“Understanding, patience, cooking, providing, stability, listening, empathy, advice, and support, knowledgeable, kind, good communication acting on child needs, transparent, honesty, positive environment, allows individuality, freedom to express, allowing the child to go at their own pace... Protective and nurturing, supporting... want to give back or experience something similar.”

“One of the biggest things she does for me is she supports me unconditionally and has your best interest at heart. They want to help you have your best life.” (Young person, TAS)



When transitioning from out-of-home care

“I think independent skills should probably be introduced earlier (than 15 years), but I think that you should start out with like simple things like how to cook and how to do your laundry, your chore based stuff. Then you work your way up to banking info and rent paying and things of that nature”. (Young person, TAS)



What needs to happen...

Nationwide, only 67.5% of children and young people in care feel they could have a say 'reasonably often' and 15.7% reported they rarely or never had a say (McDowall, 2018).

The rights of children and young people in care to be meaningfully and genuinely engaged in decision-making processes is enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also is promoted through the National Standards for Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care.

CREATE calls on all Governments to ensure that all children and young people are supported to fully participate in decisions that affect them. This should be done by providing children and young people with developmentally appropriate information to support their involvement in discussions, and building a culture around young people where they feel their voices are being listened to and in which they can provide feedback in self-defined ways.

Additionally, Governments should consider providing appropriate feedback loops around how children and young people's concerns will be addressed.

Rights, diversity and inclusion



"If kids really participate, they get a better life..." (Young person, ACT)

"I guess because you're the one in care and everything is happening to you so it's really important that they listen to you. You're still growing up and your choices should be heard..." (Young person, WA)

"For my entire life, I have been told that I have agency, but I have actually not been able to do the things that I thought that I would be able to." (Young person, NSW)

"You don't get listened to, and when child safety is your guardian they don't listen to you..." (Young person, QLD)

References

McDowall, J. J. (2018). Out-of-home care in Australia: Children and young people's views after five years of National Standards. CREATE Foundation. <https://create.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/CREATE-OOHC-In-Care-2018-Report.pdf>

Commonwealth of Australia. (2011). An outline of National Standards for Out-of-home Care. Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs together with the National Framework Implementation Working Group. https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/pac_national_standard.pdf

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The 'create' logo in a stylized white font with 'FOUNDATION' in a smaller white font below it, all on a dark blue background.

Social Media Copy

1. | World Care Day celebrates the resilience of children in out-of-home care. CREATE is spotlighting their crucial 'journey of care.' From entry to transition, every stage matters. Listening to these young individuals has shown us where our support systems can improve. Our aim? Strengthening these structures to better meet their needs. #WorldCareDay #CareJourney
2. | On Care Day, we stand alongside children in out-of-home care, recognising the pivotal stages they navigate. Their experiences guide our mission—to enhance support systems based on their insights. By amplifying their voices, we're committed to shaping a more supportive journey for these remarkable individuals. #CareDay
3. | On #WorldCareDay, we're celebrating kids in care! Today, let's amplify their stories, honor their strength, and show unwavering support to those shaping their futures. Together, we can ensure every child and young person in care feels cherished, supported, and empowered. #CelebrateKidsInCare #worldcareday

Hashtags

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