

NEABY



NATIONAL →
EXPERIENCE TO ACTION
BOARD **YOUTH**

STATEMENT OF ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

We are calling for urgent reform to laws, policies, programs and funding for child protection and out-of-home care:

- 1. Provide for our childhood development and wellbeing from birth into adulthood** – Meet the developmental needs of children and young people in care – be proactive to remove known and directly harmful practices.
- 2. Support and care for young parents while we are in care, and when we leave care** – Provide care and support to young parents in care – pledge and commit to our Charter for Young Parents.
- 3. Prevent and stop the cycle of family violence – start prevention with children and young people in care** – give us the best chance to address trauma and grow up healed and with the supports to live free from violence.
- 4. Prioritise our disability and mental health support needs, with dedicated and priority access throughout our lives** – Priority access to Thriving Kids, NDIS and adequate disability supports for all children and young people being raised in out-of-home care settings and leaving care.
- 5. Guarantee housing that is safe, secure and ours** – Provide us with safe and secure housing for young people leaving out-of-home care, to break the cycle of instability, risk, violence and vulnerability to exploitation, poverty and homelessness.
- 6. Support our education and our path to professional success** – Remove the barriers to our education and fund full participation from early years to university levels. Provide technology, uniforms, equipment and transport for primary, secondary, TAFE and tertiary qualifications, provide free university for all children and young people with out-of-home care experience – no HECS for kids in care.
- 7. Protect and uphold LGBTQIA+ rights and address discriminatory practices in care** – Remove all discrimination, hate and harm that diminishes the brightness, identities and freedom of expression for children and young people in out-of-home care. Strengthen protections for children to be safe to grow, transition and thrive.
- 8. We ask that you continue to listen to us to understand the impact of your decisions** – Include children and young people with lived experience in all areas of policy and system reform, so that we are heard and can support and inform your decisions and the actions you take that shape our lives. Make it safe for us to have a say, to be involved, and to partner with you.

Our Statement of Advocacy Priorities and aspirations is for Federal Government leadership to provide the best childhoods and brightest futures for children and young people in care.