



MEDIA STATEMENT

27 June 2013

INQUIRY REPORT: GOV PRIORITY MUST BE BEST INTERESTS OF CHILDREN, NOT COST CUTTING

Thursday, 27 June, 2013, CREATE Foundation looks forward to the release of *The Queensland Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection report* with interest and a degree of trepidation.

"CREATE Foundation views the commission of inquiry as having been a vital opportunity for children and young people's experiences and views to be heard," said Ms Jacqui Reed, Chief Executive Officer, CREATE Foundation.

"Any changes to child protection services in Queensland can only be developed with the best interests of children at its core, without a focus on cost cutting or other priorities."

CREATE calls on the Queensland Government not to use the release of the Commission's report as an opportunity to cut or shift costs in child protection. The safety of Queensland's most vulnerable children and young people is not cost neutral and any changes must be funded appropriately.

CREATE Foundation hope that tomorrow's release of the inquiry report to parliament will enable a crucial information link between government and children and young people in the care. May the energy and resource applied to this commission of inquiry report enable improvement to the lives of future people in care.

CREATE Foundation is the peak body representing the voices of all children and young people in out-of-home care. Learn more at www.create.org.au

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Overview of CREATE's support for the inquiry: In 2012, CREATE encouraged and supported interested young people to inform the inquiry through making their own submissions. CREATE also made its own submissions and identified a number of key issues in material released by the Inquiry, and then held group discussions with young people via its Youth Advisory Group.

As the national peak body working on behalf of children and young people with a care experience, CREATE Foundation was invited by the Commissioner to assist in facilitating opportunities for the Commission of Inquiry to obtain information directly from children and young people with a care experience. As a result, CREATE organised a series of focus groups held in locations throughout Queensland.

The Commissioner attended two of the focus group meetings with children and young people in care. The results were published in the CREATE consultation report that is available on the Qld Child Protection Commission of Inquiry website: <http://www.childprotectioninquiry.qld.gov.au/publications>