

MEDIA ALERT

28 July 2016

THE WELLBEING OF YOUNG PEOPLE DEPENDS ON LEARNING FROM PAST MISTAKES

Following the Turnbull Government's recommendation for a *Royal Commission into the Youth Detention in the NT*, CREATE Foundation expresses support of investigating and improving youth detention facilities. It is vital that conditions and treatment of children and young people are humane and ethical.

CREATE also shares that children and young people with an out-of-home care experience (i.e. foster, kinship or residential care) are greatly over-represented in youth detention. **This cohort are 23 times more likely to have contact with the juvenile justice system compared with mainstream young people.**

It is reported that some jurisdictions (NT in particular) have higher rates of incarceration of young people. CREATE supports the National Human Rights Commissioners in their calls for improved services and investment in early intervention and alternatives to youth detention.

Chief Minister of the NT, Minister Adam Giles stated "important that we look at the child protection system, not just youth detention" and this comprehensive approach is viewed positively. CREATE looks forward to working towards change for the better and actively engaging with the **Royal Commission into Youth Detention in the Northern Territory**

"Urgent action is required here as children and young people in care have already been abused and this treatment by the corporate parent is unacceptable," stated Ms Jacqui Reed, Chief Executive CREATE Foundation.

CREATE Foundation echoes calls from the community and sector for a broader reaching investigation of current practices in youth detention and child protection, with the aim of achieving better practice and life outcomes for all involved.

CREATE Foundation is the peak consumer body representing the voices of children and young people in out-of-home care, providing programs and services to create a better life for children and young people in care. www.create.org.au 1800 655 105

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