

## MEDIA STATEMENT

09 February 2018

creating a better life  
for children and young  
people in care

**CREATE RESPONDS TO PRIME MINISTER TURNBULL AND MINISTER SHORTEN'S  
PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENTS ON THE CHILD ABUSE ROYAL COMMISSION**

### **CHILD ABUSE ROYAL COMMISSION IT'S TIME FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND REDRESS**

**CREATE acknowledges both Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Leader of the Opposition, Minister Bill Shorten for their statements in Parliament yesterday, and welcomes their proposed apologies.**

The Royal Commission's final report revealed that the out-of-home care sector was the worst source of child sexual abuse prior to 1990. Some of the stories that Ministers Turnbull and Shorten cited yesterday were likely the words of children and young people who had experienced abuse whilst in foster, kinship or residential care.

Minister Turnbull and Minister Shorten's public steps of listening and acknowledging the stories, and coming together to support redress are important milestones in the journey forward.

Adults who suffered as children in institutions will require ongoing psychological, emotional and practical support, and should be able to access financial support to enable this.

**To this end CREATE now calls on all institutions who were implicated in the Royal Commission to join the redress scheme and provide their full support to enabling people who experienced horrendous abuse whilst in institutional care to gain the support they need to move on with their lives.**

CREATE has published several submissions on the redress schemes and these are publically available on their website. The focus of these is the need for acknowledgement, apology and access to support.

CREATE's CEO Jacqui Reed said today "throughout this dark period in Australian history it was the young people in the care sector who were amongst the most vulnerable, and still remain so now. The Royal Commission has focussed attention on an important issue, and our job is to ensure it doesn't end with mere words on a page. We need to ensure that the emotional, logistical and financial support survivors of abuse need is delivered adequately and promptly," she said.

CREATE Foundation actively contributed to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse through the provision of evidence and more than a dozen submissions.

CREATE Foundation is the national consumer body representing the voices of children and young people with an out-of-home care experience (including kinship care, foster care and residential care).

**For more information on CREATE, please visit our website at [www.create.org.au](http://www.create.org.au)**

ENDS

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Key statistics on the care sector in Australia:

- 46,488 children were in out-of-home care across Australia at 30 June, 2016
- 35% of young people experience homelessness within the first year of leaving care
- 46% of boys with care experience have had contact with the juvenile justice system
- 29% of young people who have experienced out-of-home are unemployed-36% of children and young people are split from their brothers and sisters in care
- 35% of young people in care have 5 or more caseworkers during their time in care
- 67% of young people in care are not aware of leaving care plans

**For further comment from CREATE's CEO Jacqui Reed and/or a young person with care experience please call Andrea Doney 0402050418 and [andrea@admarcoms.com.au](mailto:andrea@admarcoms.com.au)**

