

MEDIA RELEASE

1 March 2018

EVENT IN REDFERN FRIDAY 2 MARCH 3-6PM

creating a better life
for children and young
people in care

new resource breaking down barriers for young people with disabilities and care experience

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).

CREATE will be hosting an event on **Friday 2 March** at 3pm in **Redfern** and will release a video aimed at addressing challenges faced by young people with disabilities who are also have care experience.

The CREATE ILC 'Snap that Stigma' video will feature an incredible group of resilient young Australians passionately calling on the Australian community to address the stigma they and their peers have faced growing up in care with a disability. The young people share their struggle to overcome discrimination and low expectations to find happiness and belonging.

Friday's Redfern event is the first in a series, which will use the video as a catalyst for a facilitated conversation about practicalities and solutions that each community can implement to overcome and address these barriers.

CREATE Foundation is the proud recipient of a grant through the NDIS National Readiness Grants for implementing Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC).

The ILC project aims to foster better inclusion of people with a disability by creating connections between them and their communities

CREATE's ILC project aims to amplify the voices of these young people who have both a first hand experience of having been in care, as well as the challenges of living with a disability.

The project will enable young people to share their stories to help challenge some of the preconceptions in the community and help identify positive change.

The inaugural ILC event takes place on Friday 2 March from 3-6pm at Redfern Town Hall.

The community and media are warmly invited to attend these events and hear first hand from our young people with disabilities about their experiences, challenges and triumphs.

Media are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Andrea on 0402050418.

For further comment from CREATE's CEO Jacqui Reed and/or a young person with a disability and/or care experience please call Andrea Doney 0402050418 and andrea@admarcoms.com.au

ENDS

Quotes for use as needed:

Marusha: "Treat me like you would talk to a 21 year old - which is what I am "

Big Tash: "Talk to me, instead of talking to my support worker "

Lil Tash: "People with disabilities can still work and they still have feelings"

Sienna: "If I had a magic wand, I would seriously wish that everybody felt happy in their own skin and in their own bodies"

Sam: "I am inspirational and a role model" or "I want to be treated with love and encouragement "

Ruben: "We may need a little bit of help but that doesn't mean we can't speak our minds"

Wade: "I am proud of the achievements I have achieved in my lifetime" or "I wish people would be a lot more understanding of other people's situations, not just their own"

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

