

MEDIA RELEASE

15 May 2018

EVENT IN TAMWORTH 18 MAY

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 18 May** at 10am at **The Youthie in Tamworth** and will release a video aimed at addressing challenges faced by young people with disabilities who also have care experience.

The CREATE 'Snap that Stigma' video features 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 about overcoming discrimination and becoming advocates for the changes they wish to see in the sector.

(This video can be viewed on [CREATE social media platforms here.](#))

The Snap That Stigma Shellharbour Forum is part of a series of events that uses 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 project aims to foster better inclusion of young people with a disability by creating connections between them and their communities through open and transparent discussions around issues identified by the young people themselves.

The 'Snap that Stigma' event takes place on Friday 18 May from 10am to 12:30pm at The Youthie in Tamworth.

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.

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 care 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

