

## MEDIA RELEASE

28 May 2018

### EVENT IN WAGGA WAGGA FRIDAY 1 JUNE

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 is hosting an event on **Friday 1 June** at 10am at **Wagga Wagga Civic Centre** and have released a video aimed at addressing challenges faced by young people with disabilities who are also have care experience.

Wagga's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Yvonne Braid will be giving the event's opening address. Cr Braid has served as a councillor at Wagga City Council since 2008, with tenure as deputy mayor in 2012.

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 Wagga Wagga 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 1 June from 10am to 12:30pm at the Wagga Wagga Civic Centre**

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](mailto:andrea@admarcoms.com.au)**

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*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"

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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

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