

## MEDIA STATEMENT

2 June 2018

### RESPONSE TO RECENT MEDIA ISSUES AROUND CHILD ABUSE ROYAL COMMISSION

creating a better life  
for children and young  
people in care

## REDRESS SCHEME SHOULD BE FOR ALL WHO SUFFERED

The issue of compensation and redress continues to occupy the Australian media spotlight, as a result of the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. CREATE Foundation commends the many states and organisations who have recently stated their public support for redress, and who have confirmed their joining of the scheme.

CREATE is calling for ongoing attention to this important issue, and for all states and organisations who were implicated in the Royal Commission's findings to join the scheme.

CREATE Foundation is the national consumer body representing the voices of children and young people with a care experience (including foster, kinship and residential care) and made more than a dozen submissions to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse which ultimately found that the out of home care sector was the worst source of abuse in Australia pre 1990.

Alarming, the final report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has revealed that the schools, churches and religious institutions were implicated in child sex abuse, but the out of home care sector was the worst at fault.

Survivors reported abuse across a vast range of institutions and more than one third of Royal Commission witnesses reported being sexually abused in the out of home care sector prior to 1990. Young people who were abused in residential care are entitled to redress under the current scheme.

CREATE Foundation's CEO Jacqui Reed said today that "the issue of redress affects many people for many reasons, but some of the most vulnerable affected are those with care experience. It is vital that their voices are acknowledged in this process, regardless of their location in Australia. For this reason it is imperative that all states and organisations take part in the redress program. This will be key to enabling all people affected by abuse in institutional care to be acknowledged and financially supported to seek support and healing, regardless of their location.

Ms Reed added that since the release of the final report, the recommendations and follow up are slow to gain traction. This is due in part to a lack of funding to implement the recommendations by the Federal Government.

#### new south wales office

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“States and territories need increased funding now, to ensure they can implement the recommendations from the Royal Commission”, she said. “The safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people is of critical importance and deserves the government and the public’s full attention.”

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

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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)**

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