

## MEDIA RELEASE

29 October 2018

creating a better life  
for children and young  
people in care

# YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE PLACED AT THE CENTRE OF DECISION MAKING IN NEW OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

## STATEMENT AND RESPONSE FROM CREATE FOUNDATION

The voices of children and young people in care are so often ignored and decisions frequently made regarding them without their involvement. However, the new Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care, recently launched by Communities Tasmania, aims to change this.

“This framework puts young people’s voices at the centre of the policy and has empowered young people to be at the centre of decision-making” said CREATE Tasmanian State Coordinator Danni Ashton today.

Nicola Jeffery, a young person with a care experience was persistent and dogged and made sure she was personally involved in decisions about her life. But not all young people have the opportunity to do so. “The voice of youth is often not heard or ignored. Every young person deserves to have a say in their life, and to have a voice. It is a human right to have your voice heard. I have been lucky enough to be heard and participate in many aspects of my life, and my wellbeing is the better for it” said Nicola Jeffery.

CREATE Foundation, the national peak body representing the voice of children and young people in out-of-home care, commends the Tasmanian government for ensuring that children and young people with a care experience have been heavily involved in and listened to throughout the development of this key piece of work.

CREATE’s advocacy is strongly aligned with the Minister’s belief that outcomes for children and young people in out of home care should be the same as for any child in the community. Children in the care sector have the right to the same aspirations for their future as children raised in mainstream family structures.

This commitment from government also aligns with the Commissioner for Children’s Report ‘Children and Young people in Out of Home Care in Tasmania, 2017’ which suggests children and young people with a care experience should have the opportunity to contribute directly to all reform processes. CREATE strongly supports these recommendations.


The young people’s voices embedded in this Framework provide a genuine insight into their wishes, hopes and dreams of an improved care system within Tasmania.

### tasmania office

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CREATE's State Coordinator Danni Ashton said today that "we continue to urge state Government to refer to and act upon the voices of those who are the experts of life in care, and whose lived experience enables them to contribute to necessary changes. We can improve the long-term outcomes for these young people through improved policies, practices and services, as well as increased community awareness as long as all change stems from the voices embedded at the source, that is, children and young people with experience in out-of-home care".

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

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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)

- 47,915 children were in out-of-home care across Australia at 30 June 2017
- Young people in out-of-home care are 16 times more likely to be under a youth justice order than the general population
- 35% of young people experience homelessness within the first year of leaving care
- 46% of males have been involved with the justice system since leaving care
- 29% of young people who have left care or preparing to leave care are unemployed
- 36% children and young people in care do not live with any of their siblings
- 35% of young people in care have five or more caseworkers during their time in care
- 67% of young people in care over the age of 15 are not aware of having a leaving care plan

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