

MEDIA RELEASE

2 September, 2019.

2019 CHILD PROTECTION WEEK IS ALSO 20th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR CREATE!

National Child Protection Week is an important time to reflect on the importance of protecting children, but this year marks time to celebrate the 20-year anniversary for CREATE's commitment to improving the lives of children and young people with a care experience throughout Australia.

CREATE acknowledges the hard work and dedication of our founder, carers, workers, government officials, and most of all, the amazing young people who have overcome immense challenges to help shape CREATE into what it is today.

National Child Protection Week runs 1 - 7 September, 2019, and this year's theme is children thrive when parents are supported.

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 develops [policy and research](#) to report on and advocate for a better care system.

Today, CREATE Foundation's Chief Executive, Ms Jacqui Reed, shared:

"CREATE's very existence is a testament to the courage and resilience of children and young people in care across Australia. This amazing milestone offers us the chance to recognise all those who have made us who we are today and celebrate the power of children and young people with a care experience who have stood up and used their voice to CREATE a better care system. This year will be a fantastic opportunity to reflect on our work to ensure the voices of children and young people with a care experience continue to be heard and acted upon."

And Tash, a young person with a care experience and part of CREATE's community of Young Consultants (who share their unique view in order to help improve the care system for everyone) said: *"CREATE was awesome for me because it helped me let go... let go of a lot of hard feelings and loss. I always thought that I was not supposed to say anything and just take it – CREATE showed me that my voice was important and that I could use it to change things."*

To celebrate 20 years, CREATE launched the results of their biggest-ever survey with children and young people in care in March, highlighting their voices in an examination of progress towards the National Standards for Out-of-Home Care; a 20th Birthday Bash Fundraising Gala was held in May in Sydney; and birthday-themed Connection Events are taking place in each state and territory during September where children and young people and CREATE supporters will be invited to a fun celebration where our members and supporters will be recognised.

For more information please visit the CREATE website at www.create.org.au

national new south wales office

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To hear more about Birthday Connections events in your state/territory or for further comment from CREATE's CEO Jacqui Reed and/or a young person with care experience please call Leigh White 0431 932 122 or via hello@leighwhite.com.au, or alternately Andrea Moller 0402 050 418 and andrea@admarcoms.com.au

Key statistics on the care sector in Australia:

- 45,800 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.

McDowall, J. J. (2015). Sibling placement and contact in out-of-home care. Sydney: CREATE Foundation

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