

## MEDIA RELEASE

9 October 2019

creating a better life  
for children and young  
people in care

# New App to help care leavers get “sorted” when leaving care could be a lifesaver

Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, will see the Northern Territory launch of a free mobile App aimed at assisting young people with an out-of-home care experience during their transition to independence, when they turn 18.

The app is named “Sortli” and is a resource serving as a step-by-step guide to becoming an adult, designed by young people, for young people. Sortli makes it simpler to navigate some of life’s biggest challenges, like getting a job, finding a place to live, managing money, and staying healthy, Sortli provides young people the tools they need to live successful, independent lives.

CREATE Foundation is the national consumer body representing the voices of children and young people with an out-of-home care experience (including kinship, foster or residential care). CREATE develops policy and research to report on and advocate for a better care system.

*“No matter what stage of transitioning out of care into adulthood, young people will have a broad range of information needs,”* commented CREATE Chief Executive, Jacqui Reed.

*“We are thrilled to know that young people were a huge part of designing Sortli, so that it meets the needs of care leavers, or those who are just looking for information. It covers areas like budgeting, goals and a goal tracker, and there is even a ‘Want to talk to someone?’ button to reach out when in need.”*

The Sortli app will be launched in Darwin on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2019, and will be attended by sector representatives, government dignitaries, carers and young people, caseworkers, and more as the CREATE team showcase the Sortli app, and hear presentations from CREATE Young Consultants about their experience navigating the transition to independence.

*“Being able to access different organisations for help is easy and can be real lifesaver.”* Club CREATE member (age 21)

For more information about Sortli or how to download the app, click this link <http://createyourfuture.org.au/about-me/leaving-care/sortli/>

For further comment from CREATE’s Chief Executive, Ms Jacqui Reed, or a young person with care experience, please call Andrea Doney 0402 050 418 and [andrea@admarcoms.com.au](mailto:andrea@admarcoms.com.au)

To find out more about CREATE please visit our website: [www.create.org.au](http://www.create.org.au)

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### **national new south wales office**

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### **Key statistics on the care sector in Australia:**

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- 45800 children were in out-of-home care across Australia at 2018 (AIHW)
- 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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