

MEDIA RELEASE

21 February 2020

creating a better life
for children and young
people in care

INTERNATIONAL CARE DAY 2020

CREATE CALLS FOR CELEBRATION OF KIDS IN CARE!

Care Day is a global initiative shining a positive light on the achievements of over 3.9 million* children who are currently growing up away from their family. In Australia alone, over 45,800¹ children did not sleep in their own home last night and are presently growing up in out-of-home care.

This annual awareness initiative takes place on February 21st, bringing together a collective global voice of care organisations from across the world, including [EPIC](#) in Ireland, [VOYPIC](#) in Northern Ireland, [Who Cares? Scotland](#), and [Become](#) in the UK, are working together to promote conversations about young people who are defying the odds and succeeding in their own right.

Many young people with a care experience go on to defy the statistics and build a successful career, a fulfilling life for themselves or attend University.

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.

CREATE Foundation's Chief Executive, Ms Jacqui Reed, shared that, *"Care Day is a positive and quite recent initiative designed to promote recognition of how truly resilient and accomplished are our young people with a care experience."*

"As an organisation, we are committed to helping change pre-conceived views of young people in care through the 'snap that stigma' campaign. Pleasantly, it brings us great joy to witness young people striving and succeeding regardless of what they are told is possible for them."

"Together, as a community, as teachers, as employers and peers we can contribute to the bigger effort to break down the stigma faced by those with care experience."

Read more on stigma in out-of-home care by reading [CREATE's stigma position paper](#), or learn about CREATE's awareness campaign to change out-dated stigma experienced by those with a care experience through our [#SnapthatStigma campaign here](#).

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

Read about Care Day at <https://careday.org/> and join us in sharing your support via hashtag [#CareDay20](#)

For further comment from CREATE's Chief Executive, Ms Jacqui Reed, and/or a young person with care experience contact Leigh White, CREATE Communications Advisor, via (m) 0431 932 122 or leigh.white@create.org.au

Sources:

Key statistics on the care sector in Australia:

1. 45,800 children were in out-of-home care across Australia at 30 June, 2018.
2. Young people in out-of-home care are 16 times more likely to be under a youth justice order than the general population
3. 35% of young people experience homelessness within the first year of leaving care
4. 46% of males have been involved with the justice system since leaving care
5. 29% of young people who have left care or preparing to leave care are unemployed
6. 36% children and young people in care do not live with any of their siblings
7. 35% of young people in care have five or more caseworkers during their time in care
8. 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

- ** Nicole Petrowski et al., 2017 in *Child Abuse and Neglect*
<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/child-abuse-and-neglect> (website accessed 13/02/20)

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- In 2017-18, **159,000** (1 in every 35) children received child protection services. These services range from investigations of allegations of harm, through to care and protection orders and placements in out-of-home care in Australia.
 - **93%** of children and young people in out-of-home care were living in home-based care: **39%** in foster care, **51%** in relative/kinship care, **1%** in third party/parental care and **1%** in other types of home-based care.
 - **85%** of children in residential care were aged 10 or over and the median age was 14 years old.
 - The median age for children being admitted to out-of-home care was **six** years old; rates of admission were much higher for younger children than teenagers.
 - As at 30 June 2018, 82% of those in the care system had been in care (continuously) for one year or more; 18% for less than one year, 30% for two – five years, 40% for more than five years
 - As at 30 June 2018, there were 17,787 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out-of-home care.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are significantly over-represented in out-of-home care and are:

- **11 X** more likely to enter out-of-home care than non-Indigenous children and young people and
- **13 X** more likely to be in out-of-home care if aged between 5-9 years than their non-Indigenous peers.

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