



Creating a better life for children and young people in care

## ... creating a better life for kids in care

Most children come into care after being neglected or physically abused and through no fault of their own. They often grow up in a series of different foster homes and often miss out on lots of school, this makes it very difficult to form close friendships.

When they are older, they experience higher levels of homelessness, drug or alcohol dependence, justice system involvement and early parenthood.



*there are currently over 34,000 kids in care ... and this number grows by over 10% each year*

### Helping children achieve their best

CREATE is a national not-for-profit organisation providing programs and support aimed at creating better lives for children in care. We believe that all should have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Our programs teach self-esteem and skills that so many of us take for granted. They provide opportunities that should be a natural part of growing up.

*"Today I've just started training with CREATE and I can't believe I'm with all these other young people with similar experiences to me. We are all connected and we understand what each other means - everyone listens. It's like I belong here, somewhere, for the first time. I am so happy." (Lucy, 20)*

### CREATE achieves its mission using three principles:

#### CONNECT

Many children feel isolated and alone when coming into care and often it is associated with family trauma. So connecting kids with one another, their community and CREATE via initiatives like clubCREATE magazine, birthday cards and entering care kits go a long way to reducing their sense of isolation. These gestures have a huge positive impact.

#### EMPOWER

EMPOWERMENT programs and services provide young people with opportunities to meet and connect with their peers, to build self-confidence and self-esteem, and to develop skills that enable them to have a voice.

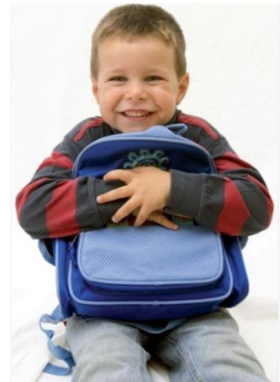
## CHANGE

CREATE is the only independent, national advocacy body whose policy positions are directly informed by kids with a care experience. We consult with kids in care through the National Youth Advisory Council and annual Summit. We also campaign for change through our Report Cards, briefing and discussion papers and our involvement in a range of committees, forums and working parties.

*“From the ages of 13 to 15 I lived in 13 different places. I found it hard to trust people because I figured I was only going to be there for a week. The good thing is that I’m involved in CREATE – at least I know they are always there.” (Rachel, 19)*

### CREATE is working to change these shocking statistics about kids in care:

- 35% are homeless in the first year of leaving care
- 46% of boys are involved in the juvenile justice system
- 35% completed Year 12 (national average = 53.7%)
- 29% are unemployed (national average = 9.7%)
- 28% were already parents themselves



**By supporting CREATE you are helping to secure the future of some of Australia's most disadvantaged young people!**



We believe that all should have the opportunity to reach their full potential

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