

## CREATE Foundation supply of Information relating to Questions on Notice to the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

CREATE is pleased to provide the additional information requested at the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2 (the Committee) in an email dated 23 August 2016. Below we have addressed each of the requests by the page number and question asked.

### **Page 51 – In response to National and NSW statistic relating to homelessness from CREATE’s 2009 Report Card.**

The national figure for this in the 2009 report was 35% of those who responded in the post care cohort across the states (n = 190). The data regarding this issue held by CREATE has been archived and it would require additional time in order to access the data and break it down specifically for New South Wales. However, the number of young people in the NSW post care group was 48. This suggests that at most, the number of young people who faced homelessness in the first year after leaving care was about 17 or 18 young people.

### **Page 53 – Carole was asked to provide a copy of her leaving care plan.**

Carole has provided the copy of this Leaving Care Plan attached. As discussed at the Committee, Carole would like the information contained in this to be de-identified and this is to be used as an example of what a leaving care plan looks like.

### **Page 54 – The Committee asked for information on the English model of Supported Housing which was discussed by the young person who came out from the UK earlier this year.**

In the United Kingdom (UK), there is a strong legislative approach to supporting children and young people in care. An important feature of the UK system contact is the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000<sup>1</sup>. This Act provides the framework for the provision services to children in the care of the system including the provision of Personal Advisors to guide and assist young people to transition to independence with support of a consistent person.


This combined with the right to housing<sup>2</sup> has meant that there is a strong focus on developing appropriate housing models. In England, the care is provided by local authorities and they have a

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<sup>1</sup> Children (Leave Care Act) 2000

[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_4058600.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4058600.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (IERCS) ratified in the UK in 1976. Article 11 - The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent.



range of supported housing models to assist young people, below we have included links to a few of these models however note that by providing this information we are not endorsing the models per se but the overall principles and provision of this targeted housing type.

[http://www.placesforpeople.co.uk/find\\_a\\_home/supported\\_housing.aspx](http://www.placesforpeople.co.uk/find_a_home/supported_housing.aspx)  
<http://www.coram.org.uk/supporting-young-people/our-supported-housing>  
<http://www.knightstone.co.uk/support-for-you/supported-housing/young-people/>

**Page 54 – Break-down of the data indicating that NSW was rated the lowest by young people with regard to satisfaction with their relationships with their caseworkers. Specific questions were: “Can you provide us with information as to the source of that? Secondly, can you perhaps present a theory or otherwise as to why you think that is? Thirdly, do you have any suggestions about what can be done about it”.**

Below is the information relating to the ratings of how helpful the caseworkers were found to be, the overall mean rating for NSW from Figure 33 was 4.1 from the CREATE Report Card 2013 (McDowall 2013<sup>3</sup>). The breakdown of the ratings (on the 6-point scale 1: Not at all helpful; 6: Very helpful) for NSW are as follows:

Rating	Number	%
6:	100	32.3
5:	45	14.6
4:	36	11.6
3:	43	13.9
2:	80	25.9
1:	5	1.6
	309	99.9

Why this might be the case would be speculation however CREATE notes that young people who responded to the *Go Your Own Way CREATE's resource for young people transitioning from care in Australia: An evaluation* (2016)<sup>4</sup> discussed that they would like caseworkers to be more supportive. Young people said that they would want their caseworkers to be more supportive with regard to systemic issues including change of caseworkers for young people causing disruption and difficulty for them. They also noted that they would seek additional support with practice Issues, including follow through on promised actions, or actions that they had committed to for the young person. Young people also said that they wanted and more specific support such as assistance with particular problems including housing, finance and information about services available to them.


With regard to what we think is a good way forward in addressing this we recommend adequately resourcing the system to provide people with training and sufficient staff to enable strong relationships to be achieved. In addition to this we direct the Committee's attention to legislation in Scotland.

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<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/international-covenant-economic-social-and-cultural-rights-human-rights-your-fingertips-human-rights>

<sup>3</sup> McDowall, J 2013 Experiencing Out of Home Care In Australia: The views of Children and Young people CREATE 2013 Report Card <http://create.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2013-CRE065-F-CREATE-Report-Card-2013-Web-File-web.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://create.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/CREATE-GYOW-Report-LR.pdf>



In Scotland their commitment to children and young people in care has brought forth additional legislation on being a Corporate Parent which they state ‘is the formal and local partnerships between all services responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers’ and identifies the following as key elements to achieving this aim:


- The statutory duty on all parts of a local authority to co-operate in promoting the welfare of children and young people who are looked after by them, and a duty on other agencies to co-operate with councils in fulfilling that duty.
- Co-ordinating the activities of the many different professionals and carers who are involved in a child or young person's life, and taking a strategic, child-centred approach to service delivery.
- Shifting the emphasis from 'corporate' to 'parenting', taking all actions necessary to promote and support the physical, emotional, social and cognitive development of a child from infancy to adulthood.

CREATE Foundation applauds this forward thinking legislation and recommends this to Australian jurisdictions to consider when reframing their child protection systems.

We thank the Committee for inviting us to appear and the opportunity to provide this additional information.

If you have any further questions on this information, please contact Lisa Townsend, NSW State Coordinator on [redacted] or at [redacted] or Noelle Hudson, National Policy and Advocacy Manager on [redacted] or at [redacted].

Yours faithfully

Noelle Hudson   
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