
CREATE

A foundation of opportunities with and for children and young people in care

(formerly known as the Australian Association of Young People in Care)

- Creating a sustainable future for children and young people in care.
- Investing in making a difference directly – which will reap rewards for those involved in the short or longer term.
- CREATE offers opportunities for you to support a community of children and young people in care who have limited life options.
- CREATE works directly with children and young people and they with us – informing and directing the organisation.
- CREATE helps children and young people in care to build community, helping themselves and each other.

OUR PRIMARY CUSTOMER

The 'primary customer' of CREATE is children and young people aged 0 - 18 years. 18 years plus ex care young people will still provide direction and input through working in CREATE.

THE NEED

There are 20,000 children and young people 0-18 years in Australia who cannot live with their families because of abuse and neglect. They are taken into statutory care and made wards of the 'state' whose responsibility it is to provide support and care for them. Most children taken into care are under the age of eight. The children and young people live in a variety of settings with other families, in small group homes, in residential accommodation.

For most, their life outcomes are limited. Overseas research reveals:

50% of young people leaving care are unemployed.

75% of young people from care backgrounds do not complete secondary school.

35% of young people from care backgrounds enter juvenile justice institutions.

50% of homeless 14-17 year olds come from a care background.

The Australian Association of Young People in Care (AAYPIC), and its networks in each state and territory of Australia, was established five and a half years ago to provide a consumer voice to the care system. During this time AAYPIC networks have effectively provided this voice and initiated major reforms in the care sector. Our focus on participation, partnership, collaboration and learning has provided the sector with new frameworks to address widespread and systemic problems in the care systems of Australia.

Most importantly the participation of children and young people in care in policy and systems advocacy has transformed the traditional stakeholder group of the care system.

CREATE PRODUCTS & SERVICES

CREATE will provide direct services and products to children and young people in 3 specific areas:

- connecting children and young people in care through the Create magazine; camps program and website;
- resourcing children and young people in care to take action through the Creatorbank and Creatorships Program;
- facilitating collaboration and participation with all stakeholders through Create Consulting.

CREATE RESULTS

For children and young people in care...

- the ability and skills to contribute to their community and have that contribution recognised;
- a greater sense of power and control over their own lives and futures;
- making a difference for other children and young people in the care system now and in the future;

- opportunities for children and young people to realise their personal goals and ambitions;
- improved quality of care for children and young people in care.

For their carers and service providers...

- positive and effective relationships with children and young people who they must help and advocate on behalf;
- hearing what children and young people feel and think and being able to make informed choices about work practice;
- collaborating with children and young people in care and other stakeholders to ensure the delivery of quality care services.

For our corporate and community partners...

- to contribute as informed and educated corporate citizens;
- participating in contributing to the long term development of solutions for children and young people in care;
- supporting children and young people to help themselves and each other.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE — THE CONFERENCE CONNECTION

*The following interview and article are reprinted from
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INTERVIEW WITH ANDY

Name: Andy

Age: 18

Where'd yer come from: ACT (Australian Capital Territory)

The general setting for Andy's interview is very relaxed. We are sitting in the chill out/meeting room that has been allocated for youth delegates and support workers that are staying at St Hildas accommodation facility here on Melbourne Campus. It is currently in a bit of a ... mess one could politely say (if they wanted to be polite that is).

Andy is an extremely articulate young man who, to me, seems to have the most amazing ability to read a situation. I thought that if I was given the opportunity to talk with him, I would most certainly take it up. And so, with the lure of a Mars bar and my easy acceptance, this is where we are.

I feel that Andy and I have a special bond. Of the brain one could say. I like the lad ... It is the sort of bond that one acquires after an evening of drunken socialism.

Lou: So ... Andy, who are you representing while you are here at the IFCO conference? Who are you? What are you?

Andy: I'm representing the A-Team.

Lou: What is the A-Team?

Andy: It's a group of young people from all over Australia who are in care, and were given the task of putting together a production for the opening ceremony of IFCO ... with the help of Genevieve and Kate ... last names unknown ... (at time of questioning) *giggles*

Lou: I just want to tell people, Andy, that you made me write that.

Andy: *laughter*

Lou: What did you find good about the conference?

Andy: I went to a really good workshop, that was REALLY GOOD!

Lou: *Lou looks expectantly at Andy and then realizes that she may need to be a prompter* OK so it was Gooooooood. What was it about?

Andy: It focused on how we see ourselves in the 20th century. We wrote down all these words we associate with the 20th century, like technology, internet, pollution ... you know ... Blah, blah ... and then we discussed the good and the bad points, and then did a performance around it.

Lou: *Lou then slaps her forehead* And what was it called? (Bit late heh?)