

# Advocacy: From the lens of the Sector

CREATE have been advocating for '**Extending Care to 21**' since 2004 – This paints a picture on how patience and continuous efforts are required to see real change happen- especially for a National reform.

Irrespective of the frustrations you experience along the way, we can make significant change take place!

# CREATE Foundations Perspective


- Our message was Clear and Concise

Focus on:

- 1-2 key issues per advocacy
  - i.e. Homelessness and Best Practice approach to Transition into Independence
- Link existing political and/or social policy:
  - Premiers priorities- reduce homelessness
- Utilise existing research and data to support your 'Key Ask'
  - CREATE Reports and Resources
  - Analysis by Deloitte: Commissioned by Homestretch Campaign NSW 2018

*An indicator of urgent change needed is in excess of 16,160 children and young people did not sleep in their own home last night and are currently growing up in out-of-home care.*

*NSW young people are becoming increasingly agitated, knowing nobody is listening, and the urgency for their voices to be heard and listened to by the Perrottet Government.*



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
21 June 2022

**NEW SOUTH WALES, IT'S YOUR TURN TO LISTEN UP & MAKE IT 21 FOR ALL CARE LEAVERS!**

NSW young people in out-of-home care are at risk of homelessness at their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The largest care community nationally, NSW young people remain the only cohort that are unable to access adequate supports and care to 21.

In stark contrast, the Queensland Government's weekend announcement of care and supports to 21 was met with an emotional welcome by QLD young people with a care experience, many of whom have invested years of advocating and speaking up leading to this outcome.

CREATE Foundation's Chief Executive Officer, Ms Jacqui Reed, shared that she feels buoyed by the QLD Government's historic decision by introducing a more modern approach, in keeping with appropriate support for young care leavers. After years of young people having to leave the care system at 19, there now exists an option to remain with their current placement, or for young people in residential care to access a range of holistic supports during their transition from care to adulthood.

In NSW young people have no formalised support past the age of 18, and many young people are in their final year of high school at the same time. NSW is the last state to recognise and act upon the fact that young people transitioning from the care system to independence are already facing significant challenges and deserve to be supported till 21. All other jurisdictions support young people to 21 in some form.

**An indicator of urgent change needed is in excess of 16,160 children and young people did not sleep in their own home last night and are currently growing up in out-of-home care. NSW young people are becoming increasingly agitated, knowing nobody is listening, and the urgency for their voices to be heard and listened to by the Perrottet Government.**

*"It's a no brainer, from an economic, moral and social perspective young people in the care system are vulnerable and need the support of the system to transition to adulthood," stated Ms Reed.*

*"It's 2022 and for NSW to be a civil society it's time to pay attention. All that the sixteen thousand plus NSW young people want is to be heard, and to know that their government, their state parent, will support them as they enter adulthood," continued Ms Jacqui Reed.*

CREATE Foundation urges the Perrottet Government to listen and support young people till they reach the age of 21, regardless of if they are in foster, kinship or residential care.

# CREATE Approach: #itsyourturnsw Extending Care to 21

- **Voices of lived experiences:**

Needs to be at the heart of your advocacy; those who are directly impacted

## Children and Young People Participated in:

- Social media posts- give the lived experiences a voice
- Videos - they speak their truth
- Meeting with key stakeholders i.e. with DCJ, Edu, etc.
- Decision makers i.e. Ministers, Shadow Ministers, DGs, etc.
- Attending other key meetings

- **Think Creatively : ‘VOX POP’**

Build community awareness

### Voice of the People:

CREATE took to the streets of Sydney to hear directly from the public. CREATE asked them to share their views on leaving care at 18, and was met with a resounding, unanimous response from the public, who say it is NOT OK for the government to jettison vulnerable young care leavers at 18. Watch the videos to find out what people said.



# CREATE Approach: #itsyourturnsw Extending Care to 21

- Lets face it, without Allies you can't acquire Traction

Ally with existing campaigns and organizations

Its important to acknowledge, partner and leverage the work of others within the sector who's campaigning overlaps with yours:

- Homestretch
- Other Peak Bodies
- Local and National organizations
- Local district based initiatives

- Apply 'Consistent Pressure'

Work with "their" (Government) Priorities

Analysis the current climate (political, financial and social)

Ascertain which approach will suite your organisation

for example:

- Match others approach or
- Offer a contracting approach

Either way it will apply pressure!

The spotlight will be ON!



# What worked

- There is no such thing as what ‘didn’t work’

Every Action is a Catalyst

- Don’t take ‘No’ as an answer

It’s Feedback to align with mutual goals

- Media- Clear Comms plan

- Social Media- keep socials active- No empty air time
- Photos
- Newspapers
- Radio



**It's Time For Change NSW!**

It's time to listen up and #makeit21 for all our young people! Join the conversation online with #itsyourturnNSW #makeit21

"Other states you stay in care till you're 21 so I think it's important we get to choose." (Female, 17)

"I find change challenging and I would like time to adapt to changes." (Male, 17)

"Young people should have the option to stay in care until they're 21 so it makes it easier for them to finish year 12, find a job, and learn the life skills of budgeting and independent living."

**create FOUNDATION**

www.create.org.au

@CREATEnd  
@CREATEnd  
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# Conclusion

1. Identify the issue
2. Why is it important
3. Identify key decision makers
4. Bring other key stakeholders that can influence change
5. What evidence you have to support your claim

i.e. feedback from your consumers, research, gaps in practice and policy frameworks experienced, etc.

6. Who else is advocating on the same issue

For example:

- Other organisation
- Campaigns

7. Raise awareness outside your own community/sector
8. Effective and consistent use of Media platform

