

create
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REVIEW
2009



**CREATING A BETTER LIFE FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE**

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For more information about CREATE Foundation visit our websites

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www.createyourfuture.org.au

or call 1800 655 105.

CREATE Foundation works to connect and empower children and young people in care and give them a voice to improve the care system.



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Chairman's Forward

2009 has been another year of excellent progress at CREATE Foundation. The CEO together with the Leadership Committee has made progress on many fronts. It is very pleasing to see a strong and vibrant team overcoming the difficult economic environment to deliver good outcomes at a time of increasing need in the out-of-home care sector.

Strong leadership and the emergence of a clear and purposeful direction has led to some very measurable and outstanding achievements. There can be no doubting the growing influence of CREATE as a peak body with the numerous contacts during the year with Government, sector stakeholders and media.

The first meeting of the National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC) in Sydney marked the achievement of a longstanding goal to give young people in care the means to have a voice and the opportunity to improve the care sector for all young people.

We have seen better engagement of Board members by the CEO and Leadership Committee leading to valuable input into marketing, public relations and fundraising for CREATE.

Above all the clear strategic direction and success by the CEO and Leadership Committee in building a unified team has delivered an outstanding year for CREATE.

David Matcham

Chairman
CREATE Foundation



CEO REPORT

This was a watershed year for CREATE, with our first ever Youth Advisory Council Summit (NYAC) held in Sydney in February 2009.

The Youth Advisory Groups and Council were developed and implemented over a 12 month period to give children and young people across the country a voice, and harness ideas and energies at a national level.

The Youth Advisory Council aims are:

- For Children and young people in contact with CREATE to identify issues that inform our advocacy and strategic direction.
- To provide information to CREATE staff and/or government regarding legislation, policy and practice.
- To improve the care system, and the lives of children and young people with a care experience.

Three nominated Youth Delegates from each state and territory form the Youth Advisory Council. This year 23 young people represented children and young people in their state at the annual Summit that was held over a three day period. The young people worked tirelessly with CREATE staff to brainstorm the issues, and identify solutions for key decision makers to implement. Young people focussed on four key areas and offered strengths based solutions taking into account the current economic climate, and the fact that the sector is under resourced. However, they never lost sight of the fact that children and young people in care deserve equal opportunities to that of mainstream Australia, and that we have to work together and in partnership using a variety of strategies to make this happen.

Parliamentary Secretary Bill Shorten, standing in for Minister Macklin responded thoughtfully to the young people's presentation and was actively engaged in providing strategies for action. Mr Shorten undertook to report back to Minister Macklin and Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd. The importance of child protection has been a focus for the federal government and it was pleasing to see the support provided for the Summit.

The Summit dinner was a glamorous affair held in the Star Room overlooking the magnificent Darling Harbour. CREATE's founder Jan Owen made an impassioned speech recognising the brilliance of children and young people in care and their uniqueness, and Minister Linda Burnie provided a NSW perspective of the care system and the need for continued improvement. AMP Capital Investors sponsored the event and provided valuable support and assistance to make the event the success it was. Stephen Dunn the General Manager, spoke powerfully about the importance of working in partnership to achieve a better life for children and young people in care.

Key decision makers from each state and territory were provided with a copy of the DVD of the Summit and the four key issues that young people highlighted for government to take action on. This informed our advocacy platform for the



CEO REPORT CONT.

year and delegates followed up the issues with the decision makers in their individual states and are working hard to influence the government to improve the care system. The Summit invigorated and energised us all, and informed CREATE's strategic direction.

CREATE moved into a planning phase at the end of 2008 leading in to a review of the Mission, Vision and core principles of the organisation, and the development of a three year strategic plan.

Following on from our work on transitioning from care and improving the life outcomes for young people transitioning to independence a number of grant submissions were made to fund the CREATE Your Future (holistic life skills and job readiness program). We were successful in the ACT and the program became operational in June 09. The Commonwealth government provided \$164,000 to update the CREATE Your Future website and to develop a national package so that the CREATE Your Future program can be replicated. We are passionate about young people being able to transition into independence successfully, and have the supports that they need to do so. The CREATE Your Future program is innovative, interactive and has the capacity to make a real difference to young people. CREATE is committed, and will leave no stone left unturned to acquire funding to be able to run the program in every state and territory.

Our efforts to increase the number of children and young people connecting with CREATE, and increase our profile in the community were largely successful. Our clubCREATE membership numbers have grown exponentially in part due to the revamped quarterly magazine complete with fabulous competitions, and interesting feature articles. Revitalised membership cards, forms and birthday cards have also added to the appeal. In addition, support from Aon and AMP Capital Investors has enabled us to provide Entering Care Kits to every child or young person coming into the care system. Our visibility in the community has risen considerably with an increased media presence, attendance at key conferences and increased staffing in three states has facilitated a good result.

Our role in advocating for the interests of children and young people in care extended to our involvement in the National Child Protection Framework. The development of the framework is a testament to the federal government's commitment to protecting Australia's children and young people.

It has been a very busy year for everyone at CREATE, and a massive effort from staff from national and state offices has reinforced that working as a team gets results.

Gratitude is extended to the CREATE Board of Directors who have continued to provide a high level of support; they have proactively assisted us with fundraising and marketing initiatives, provided their expertise, and helped increase CREATE's profile. This year the Board ambitiously took on the challenge of reviewing our Constitution and without the gracious support of Mallesons, Stephen, Jaques Lawyers

it would not have been possible. Their support and advice has been invaluable.

Our thanks are extended to our partners across government, our funding bodies, and corporate sponsors who have together made a significant impact on improving the lives of children and young people in care.

Our work is dedicated to the 32,000 children and young people across Australia who, through no fault of their own, find themselves living away from their families. It is their voice we emulate, and their voice that must be heard if we are to help improve the system.

Jacqui Reed
Chief Executive Officer
CREATE Foundation



ABOUT CREATE FOUNDATION

CREATE Foundation, formerly known as the Australian Association of Young People in Care (AYPIC) was founded in 1993 by Jan Owen who saw a growing need to provide an independent voice for children and young people in out-of-home care.

Since 1993 CREATE has evolved from a small volunteer driven organisation to a national organisation with an office in each State and Territory of Australia. The CREATE National Office is located in New South Wales.



As a national organisation CREATE is better able to increase its reach to children and young people in care through its programs and events. As an advocate for children and young people in care CREATE ensures that their voices are heard by key decision makers in government and the out-of-home care sector stakeholders.

CREATE Foundation is the peak body representing the voices of all children and young people in out-of-home care. CREATE is also one of a handful of organisations globally and the only one of its kind in Australia expressly established to advocate on behalf of children and young people in care.

For one reason or another, children and young people are placed in foster care, kinship care or some other residential care arrangement. Many are placed into care as a result of abuse or neglect.

Children in care are among the most vulnerable young people in Australia. The number of children and young people entering the Australian care and protection system is rising at the estimated rate of 10% each year. Without sufficient social and community support, they simply do not get the same choices and options as other young Australians.

CREATE Foundation is governed by a dedicated Board of Directors comprising of representatives from some of Australia's largest corporations.

CREATE FOUNDATION MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

VISION: *All children and young people with a care experience have the opportunity to reach their full potential*

MISSION: *Creating a better life for children and young people in care*

CREATE Foundation achieves this through:

- **Connecting** children and young people to each other, CREATE and their Community.
- **Empowering** children and young people to build self-confidence, self-esteem, and skills that enable them to have a voice and be heard.
- **Changing** the care system, in consultation with children and young people, through advocacy to improve policies, practices and services, and increase community awareness.

Our Core Principles:

- Participation is the cornerstone of best practice
- Openness and transparency
- Children and young people are valued, respected and cared for
- Staff are valued and supported to excel
- Strong independent advocacy, is informed by children and young people
- Partnerships with governments, organisations and individuals are pivotal to success
- Innovation, creativity, and fun

CREATE FOUNDATION OBJECTIVES

CREATE Foundation objectives are to ensure that all children and young people in care are respected, listened to and active participants in decisions which affect their lives. We aim to provide all children and young people in care with opportunities to create better life outcomes and to reach their full potential.

We work to effect system changes for the benefit of all children and young people in care into the future by building community capacity with key stakeholders.



create FOUNDATION STRUCTURE

CREATE Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors comprising representatives from some of Australia's largest corporations. Our board also includes individuals with sector knowledge, academic background, and direct care experience.

Operationally, CREATE Foundation, is managed by our CEO and Leadership Committee and employees in each of its offices nationally. CREATE Foundation is also supported in each State and Territory by young people with a care experience who become Young Consultants. CREATE Young Consultants actively participate in national, state and territory based project work and further enhance the advocacy role that CREATE plays in the sector.

The CREATE Foundation Board of Directors for the Financial Year 2008 / 2009 were:

Chairman:	Mr David Matcham
Treasurer:	Jann Skinner
Company Secretary:	Jacqueline Reed
Directors:	David Coney
	Brenda Davy
	Joan Fitzpatrick
	Brian Greg
	Trevor Gruzin
	Joseph McDowall
	Robyn Miller
	Lindsay Munyard
	Jan Owen
Patron:	David Hill

create FOUNDATION

CREATE Foundation is supported by a team of dedicated and caring professionals who are committed to improving the lives of children and young people in care throughout Australia.

The CREATE Board of Director's and CEO would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank our dedicated team members.

Lisa Abbot	Yvonne Amos
Jecelyn Anjani	Doug Babcock
Kirsty Beeston	Kate Brady
Lauren Buckley	Robyn Brooke
Andrea Brookfield	Lauren Buckley
Kelly Bucknall	Alex Cahill
Cathy Carnovale	Melissa Casten
Rodalyn Christian	Kathryn Delany
Danielle Domanski	Stephen Donnet-Jones
Daryn Elston-Smith	Christine Flynn
Mel Haynes	Rachel Irvine
Jeremy Johnson	Trudy Johnston
Regina Keo	Naomi Konza
Sophie Lee	Sarah Lord
Victor Ma	Nayson Machin
Kiley May	Peta McCorry
Jo McMahon	Lucas Moore
Sarah Murray	Symon Oliveri
Vicki Papageorgopoulos	Emma Pursche
Jacqui Reed	Karyn Robinson
Emily Rozee	Sahba Salekian
Amanda Solomons	Lea Spaven
Lisa Stockheim	Warren Sturgiss
Martin Swan	Evelyn To
Mardi Tschirpig	Natasha Urbano
Bethany Walker	Lee White
Cazz Wingrave	Wendy Zhang



Financial Overview

CREATE Foundation has experienced a year of growth in terms of its ability to connect with children and young people in care through its programs and support services. CREATE has been able to support this growth through an increase in revenue finishing the financial year with a surplus of \$118,000.

There were numerous important projects delivered during the period including:

- Be.Heard Survey launched in Tasmania and Victoria
- Introduction of Youth Advisory Groups in each State and Territory
- Inaugural NYAC Summit held in Sydney from 15 to 17 February 2009
- Further development of our Transitioning from Care program CREATE Your Future
- Launch of CREATE Your Future in the ACT
- Further development of the CREATE Your Future Website

CREATE financial year results were due to the generous support from the community at large, Australian corporations, philanthropic trusts and foundations and government. This support included pay-roll giving, event sponsorship and grants and matched giving.

Other community fundraising has included sponsored runners for City to Surf and charity of choice QBE Big Dry event. End of year Christmas Card sales also boosted our funding.

CREATE also received gift-in-kind support from the corporate sector in the areas of finance, IT and marketing. This expertise has allowed CREATE to further develop its internal systems and marketing campaigns with minimal cost to the organisation.

The financial growth for CREATE over the last two years is as follows:

Funding	2009	2008	2007	2006
Total Funding	3,609,008	3,261,595	2,418,447	2,652,561
Total Expenses	3,490,771	3,158,594	2,341,554	2,649,536
Retained Earnings	318,652	200,415	97,414	20,521
Percentage Increase	58.99%	105.74%	374.70%	17.29%

This table clearly shows growth of 36.06% in income over the past four years with our expenditure on programs and services increasing by 31.75%.

During this four year period our funding received through existing services agreements with state and Territory Governments increased by 20.36% which included increased funding in special CREATE projects and programs.

CREATE has continued to enjoy the support from the corporate sector which has risen by 182.18% or \$489,443 over the past four years. Our donations and community fundraising has stayed steady with a small decrease of 4.76% or \$13,198 in funds received.

In terms of increased costs for CREATE, during the four year period, these can be attributed to an increase in staff to further support project/program delivery, clubCREATE and to increase public awareness of the issues for children and young people in care.

CREATE would like to acknowledge and thank all of our supporters during the last financial year. The support received has enabled CREATE to provide increased programs and services to children and young people in care or with a care experience.

CREATE anticipates a difficult year ahead due to the global financial crisis and we look forward to continued support from our corporate partners, the community, government and stakeholders.

Doug Babcock
National Financial Manager

OUT OF HOME CARE SYSTEM IN AUSTRALIA

State and territory governments are responsible for child protection and out of home care provision throughout Australia. Whilst funded by government, out of home care services are predominately provided by the non-government sector, with only a small number of services currently operated by government.

The demand for out of home care is ever increasing with the number of children and young people in care doubling in the last decade and increasing by about 10 percent a year in most states and territories. National figures as at 30 June 2008 indicate that there are approximately 31,166 children and young people in care. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people comprises around 30 percent of this number and are over-represented in terms of their proportion to the Australian population.

The out of home care placement options for children and young people include: foster placement; kinship or relative placement; residential care programs and supported independent programs. There is currently a huge shortage of foster carers in all parts of the country. The average age of foster carers has increased over the last decade with many carers now required to enter paid employment in order to support their families. The reliance on relative and kinship care now consists of around 45 percent of placements nationally.

The use of residential care programs has increased slightly, comprising five percent of children and young people's placements nationally. The residential care model often suits children and young people with complex and challenging needs and young people preparing to leave care.

NEEDS & ISSUES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUT OF HOME CARE

Children and young people in out of home care need to be safe from harm, to have their care and developmental needs met and to be provided with the same life opportunities as other children and young people. A stable and supportive living environment is required for children and young people whilst work is conducted by child protection agencies to support their early return home. Older young people often required support to stay engaged in education and employment, connect with family and community and prepare for the transition to independent living.

Some children and young people thrive in care. Children and young people often talk about the good aspects of having greater stability, care, love and safety in their lives. Sadly, other children and young people do not fare as well in care. CREATE sees evidence of the negative effects including trauma, grief, loss of identity, disconnection from culture, and poor early childhood experiences.

A lack of appropriate participation in decision-making leads many children and young people to be unaware of decisions made for them about their lives.

CREATE'S ROLE IN OUT OF HOME CARE

CREATE will continue to consult with children and young people and advocate with governments and service providers to address children and young people's concerns. Through our Young Consultant Training and youth advisory structure, children and young people are assisted to advocate on their own behalf and train workers and carers about the on-going needs of children and young people in care. Transitioning from Care will remain a major focus of advocacy work over the next three years.

All statistics derived from Child Protection Australia 2007-2008, AIHW, 2009.

CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CARE

STATISTICS 1 JULY 2006 TO 30 JUNE 2008

Nationally the number of children and young people in care is estimated at 31,166. Each year this number increases by approximately 10%. The breakdown for each State and Territory for all age groups is:

Category	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	NATIONAL
Period ending 30 June 2008	13,566	5,056	6,670	2,546	1,841	664	425	398	31,166

Source: Child Protection Australia 2008, published Jan 2009 by the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare.

Policy & Research



CREATE's policy and research work informs our advocacy to improve the care system.

At the national level, the policy and research focus is to:

- develop a consistent CREATE position on national or cross-jurisdictional issues
- support states in the development of quality state-based research, consultations, reports and policy submissions
- develop submissions on national issues
- coordinate CREATE's national research program
- review and develop internal organisational policies
- research particular issues for staff briefings and current awareness
- support CREATE's media responsiveness.

CREATE's state offices are actively involved in policy and research work at the state/territory level.

National Child Protection Framework process

CREATE was a foundation member of the *Coalition of Agencies Committed to the Safety and Well Being of Australia's Children (the Coalition)*. CREATE was one of eleven Coalition member organisations who negotiated with government officials from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and State/Territory representatives to develop the Framework. The process was a productive tripartite arrangement with non-government representatives closely involved at key stages.

The Framework, launched on 30 April 2009 by the Council of Australian Governments, committed to expenditure of \$62 million over three years. The focus is on a preventive and integrated approach to child protection and improved quality in tertiary services.

Key points from the Out-of-home Care section included:

- an increase to the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (by 50% to \$1,500 per young person)
- the collaborative development of national out of home care standards by June 2010.

CREATE advocated for both issues in our submission and was pleased with the outcome.

CREATE looks forward to active involvement in the tripartite National Framework Advisory Group and working parties in 2009-2012.

National Policy Issues

CREATE made a submission to the National Human Right Charter consultation in June 2009.

Transitioning from Care Report Card 2009

The Report Card is a major national research project for CREATE – involving planning, seeking government responses regarding policies and services and conducting a survey of young people in the first half of 2009. The young people's survey elicited 436 responses following massive promotion

and strong sector support. The Report Card is expected to be launched in November 2009.

Stakeholder survey

A survey of CREATE's stakeholders in late 2008 elicited 124 responses to a web survey, and 36 interviews with key stakeholders including Child Protection departmental heads, senior executives, funding managers, national peak organisation representatives and all of the Commissioners for Children and Children's Guardians throughout Australia. The results were a positive endorsement of CREATE's peak advocacy role and a confirmation of our value to government and our constituents.

Research partnerships

CREATE provided advice and support to a number of cross-jurisdictional research projects. We participated actively in a Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) collaboration led by the University of South Australia's Centre for Child Protection and Mission Australia exploring links and pathways between child protection and homelessness. We assisted with participant recruitment in Victoria and WA for a project on housing outcomes for care leavers led by Guy Johnson, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) RMIT. We supported an Australian Research Council (ARC) application and a Law Foundation of Victoria application by Philip Mendes, Monash University and his colleagues. In Victoria CREATE staff also actively engaged with projects of the Alfred Felton Chair of the Child and Family Welfare at the University of Melbourne.

Conference speeches & presentations

The Chief Executive Officer and the National Policy & Research Manager were involved in a number of conference presentations, including the Life without Barriers Inaugural Carers conference in Sydney and the Connecting Now for the Future conference in Montreal Canada.

Christine Flynn

National Policy and Research Manager



CREATE FOUNDATION REPRESENTATION

CREATE staff are actively engaged throughout the year in committees and working groups which aim to advise Government and stakeholders on how we can improve the care system for all children and young people in care. These committees and working groups are actively involved in the development and implementation of events and projects that support continuous improvement in the care system nationally.

National

ACWA2008 Conference Organising Committee
Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia Board
Families Australia Board
Coalition of Agencies Committed to the Safety and Well-being of Australia's Children National Child Protection Framework Negotiating Group
FaHCSIA Expert Committee on Out of Home Care

Australian Capital Territory

Office for Children, Youth and Family Support Out of Home Care Committee
Office for Children, Youth and Family Support Practise and Partnerships Group
Youth Homelessness Working Group
Child, Youth and Family Agencies of the ACT (CYFAACT)

Northern Territory

Department of Health and Community Services, NT Families and Children Out of Home Care Reference Group

New South Wales

ACWA Leaving Care Working Party
ACWA Out of Home Care
ACWA Out of Home Care Education Research Group
Department of Community Services Metro Central Region OOHK Forum
Minister for Community Services Child Protection Advisory Group
Department of Community Services Community and Carers Advisory Group

Queensland

Department of Child Safety Child Protection Partnership
Department of Child Safety Transition from Care Forum Workgroup

Department of Child Safety
Indigenous Placements Forum
Workgroup

Department of Child Safety High Risk
Adolescents Forum Workgroup

South Australia

Dame Roma Mitchell Trust
Fund Board

Across Government
Guardianship Steering
Committee

Charter of Rights
Implementation Committee

Council for the Care
of Children

Office of the Guardian Reference Group

Tasmania

Commissioner for Children Out of Home Care Working Party,
Complaints in Care Monitoring Group

Victoria

Child Protection & Family Services Advisory Group
Including Children in Decision Making Advisory Group
Kinship Care Advisory Group
LAC Advisory group
Alfred Felton Chair 'Who Am I?' Project reference group
Leaving Care Statewide Forum
Leaving Care Advisory Group
Leaving Care Program - Preparing For Independence
Working Party
North West Metropolitan Region Change Lab

Western Australia

Care for Children and Young Persons Advisory Committee –
Leaving Care Kit Project Working Group
Children's Youth and Families Agencies Association
Interagency Policy Advisory Committee
Ministerial Advisory Council on Child Protection



Inaugural National Youth Advisory Council Summit

The 2009 Inaugural National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC) consists of up to three young people from each state and territory with a care experience. They meet together 4 times a year via a tele-conference. Once a year they meet face to face at the annual Summit which is held over a number of days. This year the Summit was in Sydney from 15 to 17 February where the members met to discuss the key issues facing young people in care in their state or territory. The young people decide on the key issues and determine various courses of action to improve the care system.

This year, the four main issues talked about were:

Transitioning from Care; Case Plans; Drivers Licences & Placements

So what happens to all the delegates' hard work?

The Summit Dinner

The Summit dinner was held at The Star Room overlooking Darling Harbour. The delegates presented their findings to key stakeholders and Government including a Parliamentary Secretary, Ministers, Children's Commissioners and Guardians & senior staff from Government Departments including the Department of Community Services.

The Summit findings were shown on a DVD compiled during the three days of the summit. This was a highlight of the night and the message in the DVD could be summed up as: children and young people in care deserve equal opportunities to other Australian children and young people.

Julie McCrossin was the MC for the evening in conjunction with KC Weir who has a care background. Together they were a formidable team keeping the night flowing and ensuring that the voices of children and young people were heard loud and clear by government and key sector stakeholders.

Entertainment highlights of the night were Nadine, a young person in care who travelled from Tasmania especially for the Summit. Nadine sang at the summit and was awesome.

Freedom Road, who were on tour from the UK also played at the summit. If you don't already know who Freedom Road are: they are a group of seven teenagers from the RAPP program in London.

Mostly kids in care, they aim to inspire young people to live their dreams. Those guys are living proof that if you believe in something you really can make it happen. They fundraised enough to get themselves and eight fantastic workers on tour down under.

What happens after the Summit?

An extensive report has been published by CREATE on the Summit and the outcomes identified by our young delegates. The report highlights the key issues for young people along with possible solutions to these issues. The report is provided to government and key stakeholders in order that they may consider these issues and factor them into future planning and changes in the care system.

Young delegates along with CREATE Foundation staff at a state level have met with their relevant State Minister to talk first-hand about their experience at the summit, the findings and to advocate for change to care system for all children and young people in care.



clubCREATE

clubCREATE is an exclusive club for children and young people in care and is one of our key programs. It connects CREATE to young people in care and post care to age 25 years. Having this connection ensures CREATE can keep young people informed of our events, support networks and programs.

clubCREATE is available nationally and provides young people with a membership card and welcome pack which includes information about being in care and our programs. Each quarter members receive a clubCREATE Magazine which has the latest happenings from all States and Territories, competitions, community information, puzzles, personal stories and poetry from young people.

There is also an on-line space for young people in care called Young Peoples Zone which is their space to connect, upload artwork, stories, poetry, play games and make contact with the CREATE team.

The website also allows young people to join clubCREATE on-line and links to CREATE in their state so they can tap into current information that is relevant to their location or make contact with their local CREATE team.

During the period membership to clubCREATE has risen by 1765 members or an increase of 85% from the last financial year 2007/2008. clubCREATE growth in membership has been significant and is outlined as follows:

Membership and % increase as at 30 June 2009

ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	TOTAL
78	1126	161	829	623	133	591	311	3852
144%	32%	58%	73%	351%	269%	118%	78%	85%

CREATE expects the membership to continue to increase in the coming twelve months.

Entering care kits

Children and young people enter foster, kinship or residential care for a range of reasons that are beyond their control. Often when they are removed from their family home to enter care they have not been given the opportunity to pack essential and/or personal items.

Nationally, there are 32,000 children and young people in care with this number rising by 10% each year. This equates to 3,200 young people entering care each year.

In August 2008 CREATE saw the need to provide young people with information and essential items to support their entry to foster, kinship or residential care. After extensive consultation with young people and care sector stakeholders the CREATE entering Care Kit was developed.

CREATE provide children and young people entering care for the first time with the Entering Care Kit which contains essential items such as personal toiletries, journal and pen, soft toy, CREATE program and service information available in their state, information about their Rights in Care, T-shirt, Cap which comes in a backpack or satchel.

CREATE commenced this vital service to children and young people in care in August 2008 and at the end of the period have distributed 632 kits nationally.

With 3,200 young people entering care each year and CREATE reaching approximately 20% of these young people our goal for the next period is to increase our reach by 100%.



CREATE Be.HearD CONSULTATION

The Be.HearD project is a participatory consultation project that currently runs in Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania.

Be.HearD consultation seeks the views of children and young people about the quality of care they are receiving from the child protection authority in the relevant states. The questions centre on case planning, participating in decision making, and feedback and complaints.

Be.HearD helps children and young people to have their say, to have their voice heard, and to offer ideas of how child protection systems can be improved for all young people in care.

Queensland Overview

Participation in Be.HearD in Queensland during the period was strong with key outcomes including:

- 94 children and young people interviewed from the Brisbane South and Gold Coast, and Northern Zone with 35 being male and 59 being female. Of those, 38 identified as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- A number of recommendations were posed as a direct result of the feedback from children and young people, and have been adopted or a commitment has been given. They are outlined as follows:
- A commitment from Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) to develop a feedback / complaints brochure for children and young people in care
- Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) developed in collaboration with CREATE, Information Kits for Young People. The Info Kit comprises seven young people friendly fact sheets to provide information about key departmental processes that impact on children and young people in care. They cover topics such as case plans, family group meetings, child health passports, education support plans, transition from care, matters of concern and complaints.

Tasmanian Overview

Participation in Be.HearD in the Southern Region of Tasmania during the period was strong with outcomes including:

- 58 children and young people interviewed in the South of Tasmania, 46 in the South West and 12 in the South East
- 14 were with children and young people who self identified as being Aboriginal
- 34 female and 24 male participants were interviewed

An interim report on the findings of Be.HearD consultations has been prepared with the Child Protection team in this



region being kept informed through a regular feedback and a workshop outlining the key findings.

A final report, due June 2010, will be produced once the interviews have been completed for all regions of Tasmania. This will allow young people and CREATE to provide a more accurate picture of the issues around child protection within Tasmania and to make a series of recommendations to improve the care system.

Victorian Overview

- CREATE Victoria entered into partnership with the Office of the Child Safety Commission to deliver the Be.HearD Program to two Victorian regions in a pilot initiative.
- 81 children and young people were interviewed in the Southern Metropolitan Region and 80 were interviewed in the Hume Region. Their care experiences included foster care, residential care, kinship care and permanent care.
- Some of the recommendations from the Southern Metropolitan Region include:
 - Including children and young people in the process of placement change
 - Increased monitoring of dental and health care
 - Improved and increased internet access of children and young people in care
 - Increased family history information for children and young people
 - Improvements to the transitioning from care process
- Recommendations from the Hume Region are due to be released in September 2009.
- 91 female and 70 male participants were interviewed
- The feedback from participants has been extremely positive and the facilitators have been made welcome in the care settings they visited. The children and young people who participated spoke about "feeling heard for the first time" and that they enjoyed the opportunity to "say what we want about things, speaking for ourselves."

Feedback from children and young people about the survey:

"you got me to understand and you told me things I didn't know but now I know." (10 years)

"it gives us a chance to say what we think, our own opinion." (14 years)

"It helps me to tell you stuff that I want the Department to know." (14 years)



mission:be

From September to December 2008 CREATE delivered the mission:be program in the Limestone Coast Region of South Australia. This is the first time in the eight year history of the program that it has been facilitated and delivered to a regional community in South Australia.

The mission:be program, based on a series of workshops and adventure camps, aims to empower young people in care to make decisions and create opportunities in their own lives through discovery, development and taking action on goals and aspirations. The program covers skills such as teamwork, self-responsibility, pushing comfort zones, public speaking and self-esteem.

Twelve young people between the ages of 13 and 17 started and completed the program over the three months. The participants were in a variety of care situations including foster care, relative and kinship care, transitional accommodation, supported accommodation and living with birth family.

At the completion of the program participants identified an increase in their self-confidence and self-esteem and improvement in communication, leadership and team building skills as a result of the program. Carers and caseworker assessments confirmed the participants' reports. The Service and Delivery (S&D) team (members of the community) engaged to support the program also acknowledged improvements to their communication and relationship skills with young people. All eight S&D team members reported having gained a better understanding of issues facing young people in care and that the program provided them with professional development.

CRAVE 2009

CRAVE is a long held tradition of CREATE's and is a chance for the national CREATE Team to meet face-to-face for three days of intensive workshops, team building sessions and professional development.

This year CRAVE was held in Sydney and included a series of external speakers including Bev Orr from the National Foster Carer Association who gave an informative presentation on the sector and the important role Foster Carers continue to play in the sector. Other speakers included Ann Porcino on team building and strategies for communicating remotely as a team and a media workshop.

The CEO, Jacqui Reed led the organization through an extensive review process after consultation with staff, the Board and key stakeholders. This precipitated the unveiling of the hot off the press 3-year strategic plan, and revised Mission, Vision and principles.

Christine Flynn our National Research and Policy Manager seized the opportunity to brief the CREATE Team on the Transitioning from Care Report Card follow up report. This very important project commenced in May 2009.

CRAVE culminated with a Hollywood themed dinner with CREATE staff rolling up to the red carpet dressed as their favourite Hollywood stars and characters.

The CRAVE committee was responsible for organizing the event in the wake of the Summit, which was an incredible challenge. The CREATE Board would like to thank the Committee for their hard work in developing an exciting program of shared learning about the care sector, professional development, initiatives and programs in other States and Territories and the chance to network with each other.

Jacqui Reed, Chief Executive Officer



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CREATE NEW SOUTH WALES

This year has been a full and busy time for CREATE in New South Wales. Our team has continued to make the needs and wants of children and young people in care heard across the state. This year we grew a little by welcoming a Youth Facilitator to our team.

"It has been a really fun year for connecting. We have held Under 12's events in Penrith and Broken Hill, our first ever Indigenous Connections Day in Sydney's Metro West, and we also held three great clubCREATE connection events (including our killer Christmas party at Luna Park Sydney). Foster Care Week was also a great time to get out and meet people – with the team offering stalls and activities at events in Sydney, Bateman's Bay and Newcastle.

We had a lovely time at Luna Park on Saturday - it was fun and exciting for the kids. So thank you to the Team at CREATE - it was a lovely Christmas present." (Carer)

This year our Young Consultants Training program has taken us to Sydney Central, Liverpool and Broken Hill where young people have taught us a lot. Young Consultants have learnt about speaking up for themselves and for others in care. It's been excellent to see how young people can work together to help improve the care system. We especially recognise the Uniting Care Burnside's ACE Southern Reference Group who work hard to highlight the needs of young people after care, and to work alongside CREATE on wider care issues.

"The training was wonderful and mind-blowingly insightful" Young Consultant

Congratulations to our Young Consultants who worked with staff to hold 11 CREATE Youth Advisory Group meetings, 24 Caseworker Training Session and 18 sessions to foster carers, non-Government organisations and other adults (including the 2008 ACWA conference and the Central Coast Connexions Conference). We should also recognise the great work of our first National Youth Delegates who have brought their voices to the National Youth Advisory Council Summit and attended meetings with the Minister for Community Services and the NSW Children's Guardian in an attempt to take their priorities forward. We continue to receive feedback about how powerful the messages from children and young people in care can be.

"It was a brilliant session where I learnt far more than what's in a book" DoCS caseworker

Finally, thank you to all of the children

and young people who have been a part of consultations and forums across the state and as part of the National Child Protection Framework. The input from young people in Sydney, Penrith, Parramatta and Dubbo has directly informed work in the sector about foster care and Aboriginal life story work. The information that you and our young consultants share has supported our team to work on forums and projects and to help us respond to the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services.

Danielle Domanski
State Coordinator

CREATE VICTORIA

Throughout the year that was 2008/2009 that CREATE Victoria continued to grow, develop, change and evolve. Our previous State Coordinator Kate Brady, a great contributor to the organisation and someone who always advocated strongly for the rights of children and young people with a care experience moved on to new adventures. Cathy Carnovale, our existing community facilitator took on the role of Acting Coordinator until a replacement could be found and did an amazing job of everything that was needed and so much more to keep the office going, growing and moving forward.

The focus for the Victorian office, as for the whole organisation, has always been and continues to be on increasing connection, fostering empowerment and driving and supporting change. Giving voice, hearing stories, identifying areas for growth, development and change and working with external organisations to build a stronger, more supportive and encompassing out-of-home care system has seen us revisiting familiar territory while also exploring in new horizons over the last twelve months

Connection

Connection activities are a great way for children and young people with care experiences to meet others with similar experiences, have a fun day out with workers and carers, and get to know CREATE. This year's offerings were fantastically diverse and appealed to a wide range of interests and included the Grand Prix, the Royal Melbourne Show, Melbourne Zoo, the Collingwood Children's Farm, Science Works, IMAX movie days, and the Christmas party at Adventure Park in Geelong. We were also thrilled to be able to offer our annual CREATE Kids Cup Sailing day with the support of the Office of the Child Safety Commissioner.

This year we also again received generous support from



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Lease Plan and were able to attend several AFL matches, as well as Soccer and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra days. We greatly appreciate the opportunities this support provides and look forward to continuing this relationship into the future.

Empower

This year brought the introduction of the National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC) and we have been working hard with our three delegates, Mattie, Rachel and Krystal to implement change and develop new initiatives in the four priority areas of case planning, leaving care, drivers licences and placements, starting with a successful launch in March 2009. We are also challenging ourselves to look towards the 2010 summit with fresh ideas and new perspectives. Mattie, Rachel & Krystal have done a great job and contributed their time, energy and drive tirelessly and the Victorian team has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know these great young people and helping support their work.

We have also seen the introduction of the Youth Advisory Group (YAG), a burgeoning national program that we are enjoying bringing to fruition in Victoria. Every month we open the office door to young people with care experiences and invite them to come and have a say about out-of-home care issues, contribute to NYAC and have some fun. Attendance is growing and with the introduction of a Locum Community Facilitator we are looking forward to growing YAG significantly.

Be.HearD came to Victoria in a joint initiative with the Office of the Child Safety Commissioner (OCSC) and with it Robyn Brooke who has done a great job surveying 160 children and young people aged 8-18 years in the Southern and Hume Regions. She partnered with Jim Ooman from the OCSC to travel huge distances to hear a wide range of stories, experiences and opinions. Robyn says she felt privileged to go into the homes of children and young people, hear their stories and experience their honesty.



Change

During the year, CREATE Victoria facilitated consultations with young people on such topics as freedom of information; complaints processes; the statewide review into out of home care; living independently resources and transitioning from care.

The outcomes of these consultants are submitted to the Department of Human Services and Community Service Organisations as a review and feedback mechanism and highlight areas for potential development, as well as best practice and provide solution focused recommendations. The feedback from our industry partners has always been high and we consistently see our suggestions implemented.

We have also provided a diverse range of opportunities for young people to speak for themselves about their experiences and to offer reflection and comment on the experience of out-of-home care generally.

2008/09 has seen Young Consultants contributing their voices to a wide of audiences, including, the DHS North and West Metropolitan Change Lab; as keynote speakers at the national CAFWAA symposium dinner and as part of the Alfred Felton 'Who Am I?' project workshops.

We also presented to Korean Social Work Students, provided Trauma Training for Child Protection workers, participated in an Office for Youth Forum, as well as presenting at ACCAN and NAPCAN and the Kinship Care Forum.

And one of the most special experiences of 2008/09 was the out-of-home care Deb Ball where the Victorian office, accompanied by CREATE's CEO, Jacqui Reed watched Rhiannon, Rachel, Luke, Mattie and Krystal come down the stairs at the Melbourne Town Hall looking dashing and stunningly beautiful and take several turns around the dance floor. All their hard work and preparation over the preceding months culminated in a night of magical moments.

The entire team has enjoyed a diverse and inspiring year full of great experiences and we look forward to growing as a state and as part of CREATE as a whole. Bring on 2009/10!

Jo McMahon
State Coordinator



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CREATE NORTHERN TERRITORY

During 2008 - 2009, CREATE and the Department have continued to work within the service agreement established in 2007. The development and continuation of CREATE's work has been geared to reach as many children and young people in care as possible and providing activities, events, and training has engaged new children and young people with CREATE.

CREATE collaborated with the Departmental Placement Support Team in November 2008 to help deliver a Christmas party to Foster Carers, children and young people. Christmas parties occurred in both Darwin and Alice Springs. CREATE Foundation produced show bags for the children and young people at both Christmas parties.

In February 2009, two Northern Territory Youth Delegates were selected to attend the CREATE Foundation National Youth Advisory Council Summit in Sydney. The NYAC summit was the first of its kind for the CREATE Foundation. The NYAC summit offered the Youth Delegates the opportunity to discuss issues within their states/territories and gave the young people an opportunity to identify 4 common themes that appeared nationally to discuss in an open forum.

Once returning back to the Northern Territory after the NYAC Youth Summit, the NT youth delegates along with the CREATE Foundation NT State Coordinator held meetings with Minister Malarndirri McCarthy (Minister for Children and Families, Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Young Territorians) and departmental heads such as the Acting Director of Out of Home Care, the Children's Commissioner, and departmental staff. During these meetings the NYAC youth delegates spoke about the summit and the implications of the issues in the NT.

The CREATE Foundation has successfully run CREATEbank again in 2009. This year the number of applications more than doubled to 27 applications. With all young people receiving a small grant (or products) to assist with their future hopes and dreams.

During Youth Week 2009, CREATE NT participated in youth week events, having a CREATE stall at Youth Week celebrations. During Easter school holidays CREATE NT offered two great events for children and young people, an Easter Egg hunt in the Botanical Gardens and a movie event. Both events engaged children, young people, carers, CREATE and departmental staff.

In June 2009 a part time Community Facilitator has been employed in the Northern Territory, this making the last solo centre within CREATE nationally functioning at a capacity of two staff.

Mardi Tschirpig
State Coordinator



CREATE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The last year in SA was jam packed, full of action and resulted in a phenomenal increase in our reach to children and young people in care statewide!

With the support of Community Benefit funding we had the opportunity to meet face to face with over 900 children and young people and their families in a series of 12 connection events across the state. These events involved collaboration with local communities and included activities such as 'Fun Days' in the park, pool parties and ten pin bowling. As a direct result of these activities we were able to increase our clubCREATE membership by 366%. The connection events allowed CREATE to reach over 280 indigenous children and young people in care.

This year we introduced a state newsletter which is circulated to all children and young people in care in South Australia. The continual increase in response to competitions and give-aways promoted in these publications has reflected the effectiveness of this strategy to increase our reach to every child and young person in care within the state.



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CREATE once again supported a team of young people to participate in the South Australian Youth Parliament program. The teams Preventing Juvenile Justice Bill, a Bill for an Act to prevent the occurrence of young people offending and to minimise the risk of reoffending was overwhelmingly passed in both houses.

CREATE was actively involved in a number of consultations throughout the year:

- In conjunction with the Council for the Care of Children young people were consulted about their views on permanency planning and placements. The views of the young people informed a report that was delivered to the Minister for Families and Communities on this issue.
- We also ran a small consultation where young people reviewed and gave feedback about materials that were being developed for Foster Carer Recruitment Services.
- A comprehensive series of workshops was conducted with the Youth Advisory Council of South Australia to develop and promote a series of resources aimed at educating young people about the need to report crime, their rights as victims of crime, and the victim support services available to them. This project is still being developed and the young people's input is ongoing.

- Recently young people were interviewed about the quality of contact they have with their social workers. This information was then presented in a report compiled with the Office of the Guardian.

We hope to continue our direct connection with children and young people in care and empower them to have their voices heard.

Lea Spaven
State Coordinator



CREATE QUEENSLAND

QLD staff and Young Consultants have been very busy connecting and empowering children and young people, and changing the care system – and here's a snapshot as to how we did it!

We had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful clubCREATE members at our Spooktacular Halloween event in Townsville, at the CREATE Goes Wild! event at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. Our Christmas Party at Wet 'n' Wild saw over 300 children, young people and carers attend, ensuring it was certainly wet and wild! Show me the...River and Show me the...Sails saw many of our Logan and Gold Coast Young Consultants wet again, but having a good time with a significant adult in their life.

CREATE received funds from the QLD Child Protection Week committee to run a very special event: the inaugural CREATE Child Protection Week boat cruise. This was a celebration, not only of the brilliant work our Young Consultants do, but also of the people who support them – we hope this event helped them realise how special they all are.

We also received additional funds from the Department of Child Safety and Office for Women to run a program, targeting young women transitioning from care in Logan. Participants learnt essential life skills in areas such as housing, employment and training, health and wellbeing, and relationships and connections.

Young Consultants Training was delivered in Townsville and the Gold Coast to 23 young people. With CREATE, these Young Consultants and others co-facilitated 23 training sessions for Departmental workers in Brisbane, Logan and Gold Coast regions.

CREATE consulted with children and young people over a range of topics: the review of the Department of Child Safety's Transition from Care Policy and Procedures and Participation Policy, the development of Transition from Care web resources, and the inception of Therapeutic Residential Services and how the sector can make these placements more young person friendly. One of my favourite comments from a young person was, "They should get the young people a therapeutic dog; because if you call it therapeutic, they're more likely to get it!"

CREATE Young Consultants also had their voices heard in various public forums and events including the Foster Care Queensland conference, NAPCAN's Child Protection Week breakfast, Department of Child Safety's Research Conference on Transitioning from Care, the Logan Youth Forum 'Startin' Something', and the 'Listen Up' Forum hosted by CREATE, Peakcare and QLD Youth Housing Coalition. The young people provided an insightful perspective into the experiences of children and young people in care, and their ideas and visions for the future of child protection. Young Consultants participated in meetings with the Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, the Director-General for the Department of Child Safety and the



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Minister for Child Safety. After meeting with the Minister, we were even lucky enough to get our own tour of Parliament House!

We look forward to continuing to work closely with our Youth Advisory Group, young people who meet monthly at our office at Highgate Hill to talk about issues, and ways forward for the child protection sector, and children and young people in care in Queensland.

Peta McCorry
State Coordinator



(Create'V VOYCE) was held. The group is fully funded by the Department for Child Protection, and its main purpose is to share the views of young people in care and advise the Department for Child Protection on the needs of children and young people in care. The group meets monthly and has representation on the Ministerial Advisory Council on Child Protection, and to date has been involved in 5 consultations with the Department for Child Protection and the Human Rights Commission. Three members of the group attended the CREATE National Youth Advisory Council as WA delegates, and have since met with the Minister to discuss the issues raised at the Summit.

CREATE WA held several connection activities in the past year, including three events for Under 12's. An interactive four day connection workshop for 12- 14 year olds also provided a fun introduction to CREATE, and activities for Young Consultants included a water rafting day and Senior First Aid course. Two Christmas celebrations were also held, and both were a huge success!

Sahba Salekian
State Coordinator

CREATE WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WA CREATE has had a very productive and exciting year. The National Foster Care Conference has been a highlight, with five Young Consultants involved in several aspects of the conference. Young Consultants were also involved in the four, Department for Child Protection Start-up Training sessions, and another Young Consultant won one of the Ida Curtois Award scholarships, which supported their goal to study at a tertiary level. Three Young Consultants spoke at the launch of the Ignition WA Leaving Care website, which had an impressive guest list that included the Minister, Director General and various staff and young people in the sector. It has also been a successful year of collaboration with the Department and other non-government organisations, with several important consultations having taken place.

A Young Consultants Training program was delivered in November 2008, which attracted 10 young people, many of them new to CREATE.

Early in the new financial year the first meeting for the WA Youth Advisory Group



CREATE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2008/2009 has been a very active year for the ACT centre and for our young people in particular, with several activities and events, consultations and presentations.

The Young Consultants Committee met several times throughout the year to catch-up, discuss issues and have some fun! Activities included: Xmas parties, a games and DVD day, and art day, which resulted in the artwork being sent to Brisbane for the fundraising auction organised by National Office. Young Consultants also contributed to the centre newsletter COOLcreations, which was distributed a number of times during the year, and three Young Consultants travelled as the ACT delegates to the National Youth Advisory Council Summit in Sydney.

Several young people were involved in consultations and presentations, with highlights being the Barnardos Forum for Foster Carers, and the G8 Schools Cluster Forum, aimed at improving outcomes for young people in education. Other important consultations were around Transitioning from Care, the Charter of Rights and Youth Participation.

CREATE ACT was successful in an application for a Community Support and Infrastructure Grant, which saw



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funds being provided to the office for a bit of updating and refurbishment. It has been very exciting to have some new equipment and some new furniture for the young people accessing the office.

Perhaps the biggest news for the ACT however, was securing the tender for the Support for Young People Transitioning to Independence with a focus on Education and Employment, funded by the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services. This has meant the ACT began running out the CREATE Your Future program in March 2009, and now has a second staff member on the team as well. A great result and a great year for CREATE ACT!

Lisa Stockheim
State Coordinator

Create Tasmania

CREATE Tasmania has been able to provide a significant increase in the range of activities and services over the past twelve months as a result of the employment of Melissa Castern, EMPOWERMENT Program Coordinator and Rachael Irvine, Be.Heard Project Coordinator.

Their employment was possible with the provision of additional funding from the Department of Health and Human Services.

The outcomes from the additional funding have seen us recruit and train seven new Young Consultants. These consultants have gone onto to speak at public events and Department staff training days on their care experience and the work of CREATE.

In addition we have delivered a series of CONNECTION activities for our under 12 children including a Party in the Park' and 'Halloween' Party. Through our EMPOWERMENT program our over 12 young people have attended a series of state wide activity workshops themed around Fun, Health and Art as well as a Show me the...Ship and a Laser Skirmish day. Our relationship with the Foster Carers Association remains strong having again assisted them with the provision of children's activities at their Annual 'Big Day Out' event.

During the year CREATE launched the Be.Heard Program in Tasmania. The project has interviewed children and young people in the South of the state on a range of topics including cultural planning, education, participation, family contact, placement and support, case and care planning, complaint processes and transition from care. The northern region of

Tasmania will be covered over the next 12 months. The information provided will become a part of an external review of the Disability, Child, Youth and Family Services Unit of the Department of Health and Human Services, and will help them to improve the way they work with children and young people in care.

The TAS KIDZ NEWZ newsletter together with the clubCREATE newsletter has kept children and young people, their carers and the sector informed of CREATES activities. This together with the additional resources has also resulted in a significant increase in clubCREATE membership.

We have continued building on our close relationships with the Department and sector partners while our engagement with children and young people grows and their voice in and about the care system is heard.

Stephen Donnet-Jones
State Coordinator





CORPORATE SUPPORTERS, SPONSORS & FUNDING BODIES

It has been a productive year for CREATE Foundation with a range of projects and events being undertaken, many in conjunction with our corporate partners, sponsors and volunteers.

CREATE would like to acknowledge and thank all our partners, sponsors, donors and volunteers for their support through the financial year.



AMP Foundation and AMP Capital Investors

AMP Foundation have been instrumental in assisting CREATE Foundation during the year with funding for vital positions in National Policy and Research Manager and the National Marketing and Fundraising Manager. They have also provided matched donations for AMP's payroll giving programme iGive and for other fundraising initiatives undertaken by AMP Capital Investors Management and Staff.

Key initiatives undertaken by AMP Foundation and AMPCI include the event AMP's Got Talent – a fun event with AMP staff showing their artistic flair and skills up on the big stage, funding for the Inaugural National Youth Advisory Group Summit held in Sydney in February 2008, funding and volunteers for the Annual CREATE Christmas events for children and young people in care, the continued support of Brand Marque to support marketing initiatives and planning and support for the 2009 National Youth Advisory Summit Media Campaign.

AMP Shopping Centres have also provided CREATE Foundation with exposure on their website which includes information about children and young people in care and the ability to make a donation to CREATE.



Aon Charitable Foundation

The Aon Charitable Foundation supports CREATE through the provision of recurrent funding for programs and services. In addition to this Aon participated in the Sydney Running Festival in September 2008, as well as conducting a national Christmas gift drive which gave many Children and Young People in care an opportunity to experience a happy and memorable Christmas.

During the year, Aon provided a national volunteer force to support CREATE programs, activities and clubCREATE on a regular basis. Events included CREATE Christmas parties across Australia, providing professional speakers and training materials as well as venues and facilities to support CREATE staff. Aon also provided support through their payroll giving program and ClubCREATE Entering to Care kits.



Macquarie Group Foundation

The Macquarie Group Foundation supported CREATE Foundation in building capacity to ensure that we continue to grow into the future. The provision of funding has allowed us to build more productive relationships with our corporate partners, funding bodies and the community. It has also provided CREATE with the skills to secure additional grants from Community Foundations and Government.



Microsoft Australia

Microsoft Australia support CREATE through their workplace giving program, and participation in the National Child Protection week in September 2008. They also donate a range of merchandise and software which is directed to children and young people in care.



QBE Insurance Group Limited

The QBE Group's annual Big Dry fundraising event was held during February 2009 and attended by over 80 corporate guests from the finance and insurance industries. This event provides CREATE with an opportunity to raise funds and create further awareness of the issues facing children and young people in care.



Steadfast Group Limited

The Steadfast Group continues to support CREATE Foundation in innovative ways. Besides providing regular generous donations, this year, they invited CREATE to participate in the 11th annual Steadfast National Conference at the Gold Coast. Twenty two pieces of the finest artworks done by Children and Young People in care were displayed and auctioned at the conference dinner attended by over 1300 delegates. The theme for the exhibition was "children's hopes and dreams for the future".

The exhibition was supported by The Steadfast Group, Lumley General Insurance and Griffith University.

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The CREATE Foundation would like to acknowledge and thank the Tasmanian Community Fund and Lotterywest for providing a grant for the purchase of a vehicle for our Tasmanian and Western Australian office respectively. This will allow CREATE to support more Children and Young People in care throughout Tasmania and Western Australia.

Yvonne Amos
 National Marketing & PR Manager



MALLESONS STEPHEN JAQUES



CREATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING BODIES:

CREATE Foundation would like to gratefully acknowledge the support we receive from the Commonwealth and State Governments.

Commonwealth Government

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

One off grant to support CREATE Your Future Program Development

State and Territory Government

Office of Children, Youth and Family Support (ACT)

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (ACT)

Department of Community Services (NSW)

Department of Health and Community Services (NT)

Department of Child Safety (QLD)

Department for Families and Communities (SA)

Department of Health and Human Services (TAS)

Department of Human Services (VIC)

Department for Child Protection (WA)



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CREATING A BETTER LIFE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE