

CONFERENCE 2024

**EVALUATION
REPORT**

**VOICES
IN ACTION**

**YOUR STORIES.
STRONGER TOGETHER.**

OVERVIEW

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to begin by acknowledging that our Voices in Action 2024 conference took place on the traditional Country of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land and waters. We extend our deepest gratitude for the opportunity to have met on this sacred land and commit to honouring and upholding Indigenous knowledge, traditions, and values.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Voices in Action is an initiative by CREATE Foundation, Australia's national consumer body advocating for children and young people with a care experience. Voices in Action provides a vital platform for young people, carers, professionals, and policy makers to come together and address the critical issues facing those in out-of-home care.



Through dynamic presentations, panels, workshops, and collaborative projects, Voices in Action facilitates meaningful conversations and empowers participants to drive positive change within the care sector. By amplifying the voices of those directly impacted and fostering genuine partnerships, Voices in Action is at the forefront of shaping policies and practices to ensure the well-being and rights of young Australians in care are upheld and championed.

The sixth international conference, was held at the Adelaide Showgrounds from Thursday 21 to Saturday 23 March 2024. The theme of this year's conference, *Your Stories. Stronger Together.* showcased the importance of each individual young person's story and journey in the out-of-home care system and how bringing these voices together and working collectively with all those involved in the sector, we can effect positive

change. The Voices in Action conference is a unique opportunity to connect and collaborate with the aim to elevate the voices of children and young people and gain their insight to make changes to the out-of-home care system in Australia.

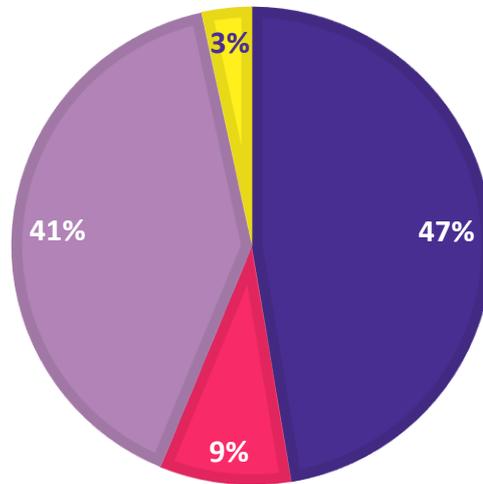
The conference was hosted by MC extraordinaire Gregory Nicolau and CREATE is grateful for Gregory's continued support to our organisation, and in particular the young people we serve.

REGISTRATIONS

TOTAL REGISTRATIONS

| Young People | Carers | Professionals | Staff | TOTAL |
|--------------|--------|---------------|-------|-------|
| 252 | 47 | 215 | 18 | 532 |

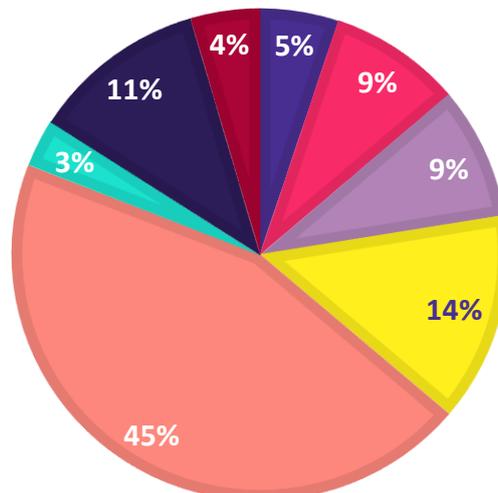
■ Young People ■ Carers ■ Professionals ■ Staff



AUSTRALIAN STATE AND TERRITORY ATTENDANCE

| ACT | NSW | NT | QLD | SA | TAS | VIC | WA |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 26 | 44 | 44 | 70 | 227 | 16 | 58 | 23 |

■ ACT ■ NSW ■ NT ■ QLD ■ SA ■ TAS ■ VIC ■ WA



INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES

| Hong Kong | New Zealand | United Kingdom | United States | TOTAL |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------|
| 10 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 24 |

CULTURAL PARTICIPATION

Participants identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

| Young People | Carers | Professionals | TOTAL |
|--------------|--------|---------------|-------|
| 76 | 1 | 15 | 92 |

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

In addition to commercial sponsorship, CREATE secured funding from the state and territory governments for the conference young person grants. The funding that is obtained from state and territory governments is used exclusively to fund and support young people to attend our conference by paying for flights, accommodation and registration.

CREATE opens up the grant application process to any 14 – 25 year-olds who have had a statutory care experience, are clubCREATE members and have completed Speak Up (SUP) Levels 1, 2 and 3. State Program and Engagement Coordinators select the successful recipients, and all travel and planning is coordinated and booked internally by CREATE staff.

GRANT RECIPIENT BREAKDOWN

| | ACT | NSW | NT | QLD | SA | TAS | VIC | WA | TOTAL |
|--------------|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Young Person | 11 | 10 | 17 | 13 | 28 | 6 | 21 | 16 | 122 |
| Carer | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| TOTAL | 14 | 11 | 18 | 14 | 30 | 7 | 21 | 16 | 131 |



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The conference commenced each day with a plenary session with all participants in the one auditorium hearing speeches and presentations by featured speakers. The program then broke off into five different streams that explored different topics and activities. Streams 1 and 2 featured keynote speakers and young person led panels, Stream 3 was the CREATE led Advocacy in Action sessions and Streams 4 and 5 were young person only creative workshops. Day 1 and Day 3 also featured a closing plenary session. Due to the conference dinner on Day 2, an additional workshop was scheduled in place of a closing plenary.

| PLENARY PRESENTERS | | |
|--|--|--|
| Name | Organisation | Position |
| April Lawrie | Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (SA) | Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People |
| Anne Hollonds | Australian Human Rights Commission | National Children's Commissioner |
| Anthony Raitman | Life Without Barriers | Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives |
| Cameron Burgess | Mackillop Family Services | National Program Director |
| Catherine Liddle | SNAICC | CEO |
| Gregory Nicolau | The Act Group | Founder, Consultant Psychologist |
| Helen Connolly | Commissioner for Children and Young People (SA) | Commissioner for Children and Young People |
| Hon. Amanda Rishworth | Australian Government, Department of Social Services | Minister for Social Services |
| Hon. Katrine Hildyard | Government of South Australia, Department for Child Protection | Minister for Child Protection |
| Jack Buckskin | Kuma Kaaru | Founder |
| Jackie Bray | Department for Child Protection | Chief Executive |
| Luke Twyford | Queensland Family & Child Commission | Principal Commissioner- Queensland Family & Child Commission |
| Phi Theodoros | Life Without Barriers | Lead Resident Artist - Living Arts |
| Shona Reid | Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People South Australia | Guardian for Children and Young People |
| South Australia's Children's Choir: Strong in Culture, Strong in Voice | | |
| Tracie Shipton | VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai | Chief Executive |



FEATURED PRESENTERS

| Name | Organisation | Position |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Amalia Fawcett | ACT Human Rights Commission | Senior Adviser |
| Ashum Owen | Office of the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (SA) | Principal Advisor |
| Ben Mathews | School of Law QUT | Professor and Lead Investigator |
| Brooke Oliver | Relationships Australia | Lived Experience Consultant |
| Caine Wild | Wild Intervention LTD | Managing Director |
| Ceceilia Black | Mercy Community | Project Officer |
| Elise Ramage | VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai | Regional Youth Council Member |
| Farani Burns | Mercy Community | Younger People Advocacy Group Member |
| Iain Thompson | Freedom Road Creative Arts | Creative Coordinator |
| Isabella Kristo | University of Sydney | Researcher |
| Jacqueline McGowan-Jones | Commissioner for Children and Young People (WA) | Commissioner for Children and Young People |
| Jake Wellington | VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai | Regional Youth Council Member |
| Jarrod Wheatley | Profesional Individualised Care (PIC) | Founder and CEO |
| Jennifer Inoue | Peak Care Queensland | CEO |
| Jodie Griffiths-Cook | ACT Human Rights Commission | Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner |
| Jodie Williams | Government of South Australia, Department for Child Protection | Senior Program Officer, Child and Youth Engagement |
| Leanne McLean | Commissioner for Children and Young People (TAS) | Commissioner for Children and Young People |
| Mary-Lynn Huxford | VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai | Regional Youth Council Member |
| Natalie Lewis | Queensland Family & Child Commission | Commissioner for Children |
| Rod Kippax | Mercy Community | Senior Inclusion Manager |
| Sarah Gibbs | VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai | Regional Youth Council Member |
| Suzie Attiwill | School of Architecture and Urban Design RMIT University | Professor |
| Sydney Hape | VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai | Regional Youth Council Member |
| Teneal Monssen | Mercy Community | Younger People Advocacy Group Member |



| PANELLISTS | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Name | Organisation | Position |
| April Lawrie | Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (SA) | Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People |
| Ben Dixon | Fostered Connections | Lived Experience Consultant |
| Jacqueline McGowan-Jones | Commissioner for Children and Young People (WA) | Commissioner for Children and Young People |
| Jason Tyndall | Nature Play SA | CEO |
| Jodie Griffiths-Cook | ACT Human Rights Commission | Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner |
| Leanne McLean | Commissioner for Children and Young People (TAS) | Commissioner for Children and Young People |
| Liana Buchanan | Commissioner for Children and Young People Victoria | Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People |
| Luke Twyford | Queensland Family & Child Commission | Principal Commissioner-Queensland Family & Child Commission |
| Meena Singh | Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People Victoria | Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People |
| Melissa Gibson | Child and Family Focus SA | CEO |
| Natalie Lewis | Queensland Family & Child Commission | Commissioner for Children |
| Sharla Abdullah | WA Department of Communities | A/ Advocate for Children in Care |
| Shona Reid | Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People South Australia | Guardian for Children and Young People |
| Tom Allsop | PeakCare Queensland | CEO |

| Young Person Creative Workshop Facilitators | | |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| Name | Organisation | Position |
| Adrienne Semmens | Adelaide Festival Centre | Workshop Facilitator |
| Ben Grywacz | Uberjakt | DJ / Producer |
| Caine Wild | Wild Intervention LTD | Managing Director |
| Catherine Kanvik | Catherine Kanvik Art | Artist |
| Iain Thompson | Freedom Road Creative Arts | Creative Coordinator |
| Kellie Nicol | Adelaide Festival Centre | Programming Executive & Special Events Producer, Creative Programs |
| Phi Theodoros | Life Without Barriers | Lead Resident Artist - Living Arts |
| Tamara Collins | Adelaide Festival Centre | Workshop Facilitator |

YOUNG CONSULTANTS

Young Consultants are pivotal to the success of the organisation and young people with a care experience become Young Consultants by completing CREATE's Speak Up program. SUP is a three-level youth empowerment program for young people with out-of-home care experience, aged 14 to 25 who want to become a CREATE Young Consultant, a youth advocate to help us change the care system.

Speak Up participants learn about the care system and develop advocacy, leadership, and public speaking skills. Young Consultants use their stories and experiences to represent CREATE and advocate with us at local, state or national events and forums. This training can help young people to effectively contribute to discussions with decision-makers, provide them the opportunity to train child protection workers to help them build skills and knowledge through listening to young people's lived experience expertise, and various other opportunities to help change the system for other children and young people in care.

39 Young Consultants were given an active role in the conference and included the following roles:

- Plenary address presenters
- Panellists
- Panel facilitators
- Session hosts
- Roving reporters
- Conference dinner MC
- 'Gus' CREATE's gorilla mascot



KEY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Over the conference, we ran six live Advocacy in Action sessions on key issues that affect children and young people in care. While the sessions were open to all delegates, we wanted to hear what young people in particular had to say about what needs to change in the out-of-home care system, because their voices direct our advocacy work. These sessions focused on the following topics:

- transition supports (which included issues around housing and cost of living),
- education,
- residential care,
- sibling connections, and;
- health and wellbeing.

These sessions with young people and other delegates culminated in a Delegate Statement on ‘key asks’ to present to Governments and decision-makers on what needs to change.

The call to action on transition supports

“It’s a basic human right to have a safe place to live AND put food on the table.” – 2024 Young Delegate

- To ensure all young people transitioning from care get the support they need, delegates called for:
 - Support to extend to 25 years or as long as needed
 - An increase to TILA to assist with cost of living
 - A consistent Independent Living Allowance across jurisdictions
 - Guaranteed housing, and
 - Rental support including a rental skills program.

The call to action on education

“I can’t be worrying about homework when I don’t have a home.” – 2024 Young Delegate

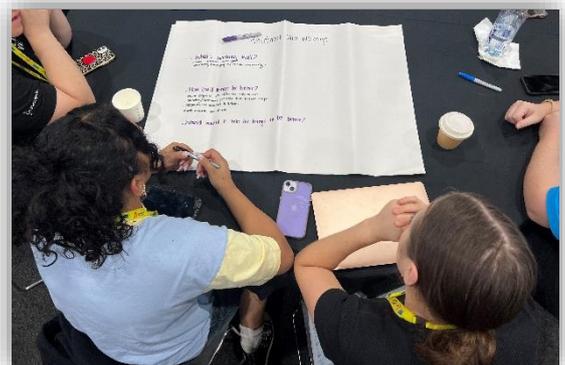
- To support all children and young people in care to engage in learning opportunities, delegates called for:
 - A training package for teachers to better support children in care
 - A national framework to address racism and stigma in schools and cultural liaison officers, and
 - For case manager practice to have a strong focus a young person’s educational goals.

The call to action on residential care

“Remember it’s a young person’s home and not a workplace.” – 2024 Young Delegate

“You have every right to feel safe as a worker, but it’s my home. I have a right to feel safe there too.” – 2024 Young Delegate

- Delegates wanted significant improvements to be made to residential care including:
 - Every child and young person in residential care should get their own bedroom. Young people suggested that this was not the case in all jurisdictions
 - Choice, voice and agency for young people, including giving young people a say in who looks after them in residential care
 - Aboriginal young people should have Aboriginal carers
 - Careful recruitment of care workers to ensure they are fully equipped to work in trauma-informed and relational ways, and
 - Increase funding for the foster care system including supports for foster carers to support a transition away from residential care.



The call to action on sibling connections

“Losing my siblings traumatised me a lot more.”— 2024 Young Delegate

- To ensure children and young people in care can build and maintain strong sibling connections, delegates called for:
 - Regular updates about siblings from caseworkers
 - Where siblings can't be placed together, try to place them in the same area so they can go to school together
 - Fund and appoint a state-wide sibling connections coordinator in each jurisdiction
 - Remove bureaucratic practices that get in the way of siblings having contact with each other
 - Support older siblings to be able to advocate for younger siblings' needs.

The call to action on health and wellbeing

*“Why can't we have specialist support for young people in out-of-home care that have experienced trauma.”
– 2024 Conference Delegate*

- To ensure all children and young people in care are supported to maintain their health and wellbeing, delegates called for:
 - Bulk billing and priority access to health and mental health services for children and young people in care
 - More help with navigating the health system by streamlining the referral process
 - Unlimited Medicare-subsidised psychology sessions for children and young people with a care experience
 - Additional support for young people who are pregnant or have a baby, and
 - Training on the care system for health practitioners.

YOUNG PERSON LED PANELS

In these panels, young voices took the lead in discussing vital topics, including addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People in care, advancing self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, families and communities, children's rights in care and youth justice systems, and engaging with Commissioners. These panels offered candid conversations and raised possible solutions.

Self-determination Panel

Five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander CREATE Young Consultants from across the country participated in a panel session to talk about their experiences of self-determination in care. The panel session was facilitated by South Australia's Guardian for Children and Young People, Shona Reid. In this session, Young Consultants talked about their stories and experiences within the care system and how these experiences have interacted with the ways they exercise self-determination as individuals and in community.

Talking with Children’s Commissioners about children and young people’s rights

The young person-led panel with Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates for Children and Young People discussed how lived experience is valued and respected, initiatives aimed at educating children and young people in care about their rights, addressing the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse children and young people, the rights of young people with a care experience in contact with youth justice system. The conversation included the need to focus discussions on young people and not systems because both child protection and youth justice systems are defined by childhood trauma and an inability as a society to address this trauma, and limitations on children and young people exercising their rights in the child protection system. The panel discussions also highlighted the need to better protect the rights of children and young people in residential care placements.

Talking with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commissioners

The young person-led panel with Commissioners for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People explored issues of safety in care in regional and remote areas, health and wellbeing, the rights of children and young people with disabilities, the rights of children in residential care, improving culturally informed practice, addressing racial profiling of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People in care, and connections to siblings and family.

Lived Experience Panel

The ‘Our Stories, Stronger Together’ panel brought together five lived experience experts who shared their stories not for themselves, but for the 45,000 children and young people currently in care. All sharing a belief in the power of story, their vulnerability and insights resonated and empowered those in attendance. We heard stories on how their lived experience has led to writing an autobiography and children’s book, how their experience as a child in out-of-home care and their experience as a kinship carer has led them down a path of advocacy, innovative care models that can be rolled out across the country, the impact that a single caring and compassionate relationship can have on a person’s life, and the relationship between nature and wellbeing. The queue of young people waiting to share their gratitude with the panellist as they walked off stage demonstrated the importance of ‘Your Stories, Stronger Together’.



FEATURE PRESENTATIONS

In these sessions, young people and leaders in social justice, advocacy, and innovation delivered presentations that offered valuable real-life examples, insights and strategies for making a positive impact on important issues in out-of-home care.

Presentations covered youth justice, the Australian Child Maltreatment Study, young people's rights and participation in decisions that affect them, and other presentations related to the conference theme *Your Stories. Stronger Together*.

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

These sessions were designed specifically for young people to provide them with opportunities to develop self-confidence, make new connections with peers who share similar life experiences, and freely express themselves.

These sessions offered a range of activities aimed at nurturing creativity and personal growth and exploring the theme of *'Your Stories. Stronger Together'*. The activities included:

- Creative Writing and Poetry
- DJ Skills
- Telling stories through drama
- Creative Art



CHILL ZONE

In order to support the well-being and mental health of our delegates in acknowledgement of the sensitive issues that were discussed across the program, a Chill-out Space was co-facilitated between Life Without Barriers and Headspace Adelaide. The space was available for delegates throughout the duration of the conference and delegates had resources available for mental health support and referrals, a quiet space, art and game activities.

CLOSING THE GAP DAY

Closing the Gap Day, Australia's biggest event dedicated to improving life outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, was held on Thursday 21 March 2024, from 10am to 2pm, with a special event held at the Adelaide Showground. CREATE Foundation encouraged conference participants to also register and attend the Closing the Gap event, which was in the pavilion next to Voices in Action.



CONFERENCE DINNER EVENT

Following on from the success of the 'party style' dinner event in 2019, the conference dinner event NEON NIGHTS was held at the Adelaide Showgrounds on Friday 22 April. Attendees were encouraged to come along wearing either neon or brightly coloured clothing and accessories and were given free glow accessories on arrival.

The event was hosted by our Young Consultant MC Felicity with assistance from Gus, CREATE's gorilla mascot. Entertainment was provided by DJ Indie Leigh who ran an impromptu talent show for the young people who volunteered their performance skills.

The young people attending also had the opportunity to win lucky door prizes which were donated by the CREATE Board and included:

- Gold Class voucher
- JB HiFi Voucher
- Rebel Voucher
- Apple iPad (donated by Telstra)
- Samsung Galaxy Tab (donated by Telstra)



DELEGATE STATEMENT AND NEXT STEPS

CREATE is committed to elevating the voices of children and young people with a care experience to change the out-of-home care system and improve experiences for all children and young people in contact with child protection and care systems. The Delegate Statement can be viewed on the [CREATE Foundation website](#), and via our Advocacy Wrap-up and clubCREATE magazine. This statement is a powerful call to action for all Governments to do things better to support children and young people with a care experience. To make your voices heard CREATE's Advocacy and Influencing Team, along with our Young Consultants, will take the Delegate Statement to meetings with key decision makers, sector partners and policy makers.

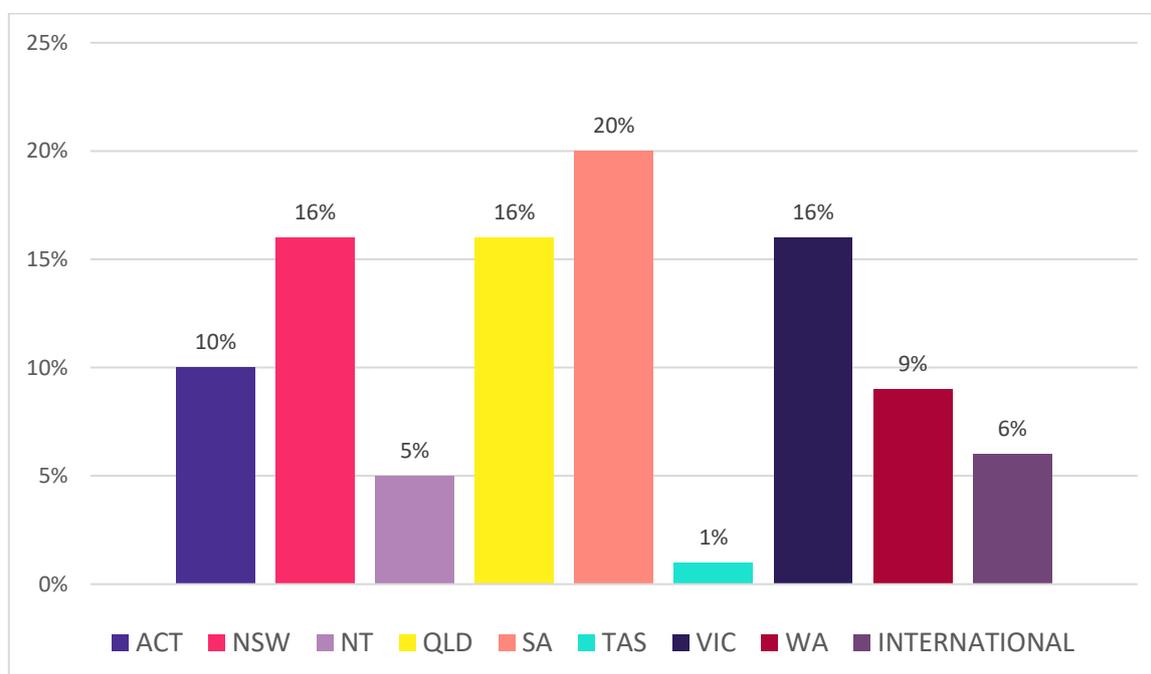


DELEGATE EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK

CREATE developed two separate forms for delegates to capture feedback, and to help gauge the success of the conference. One was specifically for young people, and one for all other delegates (carers, workers, policy makers and researchers).

YOUNG PERSON EVALUATION RESULTS

99 young person delegates completed the evaluation survey with the following breakdown by location:



The below table provides the questions asked within the survey and their results:

| Survey Question | Responses | | |
|---|----------------|-----|------------|
| I think attending this conference helped me feel more connected to others with a care experience | Strongly Agree | 43% | 84% |
| | Agree | 41% | |
| I think by attending this conference I have learned more about what CREATE does to advocate for a better care system | Strongly Agree | 42% | 85% |
| | Agree | 43% | |
| As a result of the conference I feel more confident to share my views | Strongly Agree | 40% | 75% |
| | Agree | 35% | |
| I think that at this conference children and young people had many opportunities to be involved | Strongly Agree | 44% | 81% |
| | Agree | 37% | |
| I think ideas shared at this conference will help improve the care system | Strongly Agree | 40% | 75% |
| | Agree | 35% | |

The survey also included free form questions. Common themes from the feedback included:

What did you like most about the conference?

- Connection to and meeting others
- Sharing and listening to stories and experiences
- Young person only creative workshops
- Advocacy in Action sessions
- Conference Dinner
- VOYCE NZ Youth Council presentation
- Supportive/inclusive environment
- Variety of workshops and presentations to choose from

"[What I liked most was] being able to connect with people who share similar experiences and deep diving into problems and solutions with the care system." – 2024 Young Delegate

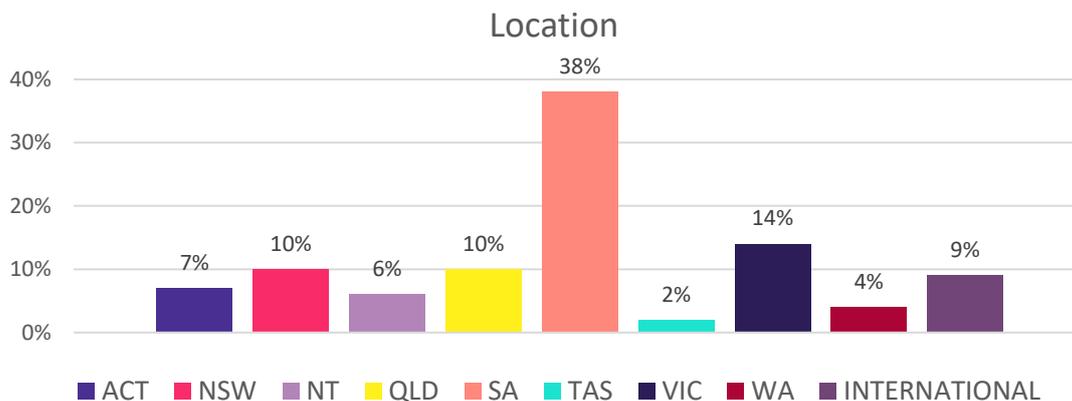
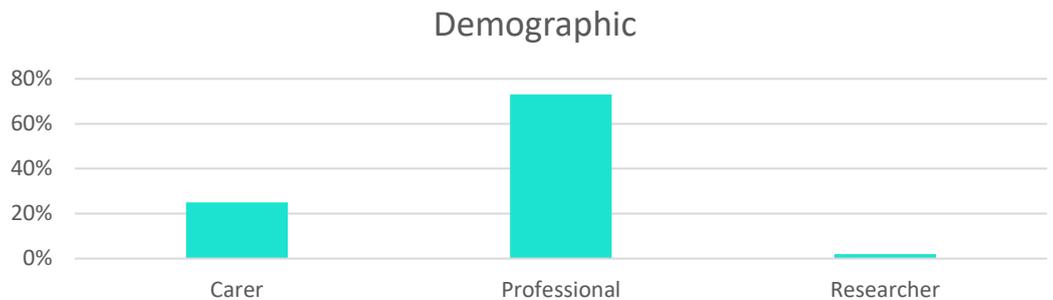
"[What I liked most was] the way that it showed clear themes and specific problems to focus advocacy on." – 2024 Young Delegate

"[What I liked most was] the connection with others & the opportunity to use our stories & voices to inform others." – 2024 Young Delegate



PROFESSIONAL EVALUATION RESULTS

175 carers, workers and researchers completed the evaluation survey, with the following demographics:



| Survey Question | Responses | | |
|---|----------------|-----|-----|
| I think attending this conference helped children and young people connect to others with a care experience | Strongly Agree | 46% | 93% |
| | Agree | 47% | |
| I think people attending this conference would have a better understanding of what it means to have a care experience | Strongly Agree | 36% | 93% |
| | Agree | 57% | |
| This conference has contributed to my knowledge of how to support young people with a care experience | Strongly Agree | 29% | 83% |
| | Agree | 54% | |
| This conference gave me a chance to hear the voices of young people | Strongly Agree | 56% | 93% |
| | Agree | 37% | |
| I think that at this conference children and young people had many opportunities to be involved | Strongly Agree | 43% | 85% |
| | Agree | 42% | |
| I think the ideas shared at this conference will help improve the out-of-home care system | Strongly Agree | 30% | 80% |
| | Agree | 50% | |

What did you like most about the conference?

- Hearing stories, experiences, opinions and ideas on how to make improvements
- Connection opportunities for young people and sector professionals between states
- Positive, supportive and safe space for young people to share their experiences
- Quality and variety of speakers and program

Highlights included:

- Advocacy in Action sessions
- Lived Experience Panels
- Youth led panel with Commissioners
- Jarrod Wheatley – PIC presentation
- Catherine Liddle
- Caine Wild
- VOYCE NZ Youth Council presentation
- Strong in Voice Choir
- Young person creative workshops
- Welcome to Country
- Conference Dinner
- Young person involvement, participation and focus



“[What I liked most was] hearing from so many brave, resilient, amazing care experienced young people and the fire in the belly that this has given as a professional to do better!!” – 2024 Conference Delegate

“[What I liked most was] hearing about different programs and advocacy to rethink the child protection and OOHC systems reignites my passion and value for this work.” – 2024 Conference Delegate

“[What I liked most was] hearing more from young people, especially Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander youth about their experience.” – 2024 Conference Delegate

“[What I liked most was] young people's voices are heard, valued and respected, love this!! Create team have been amazing and made my son (foster son) feel heard, feel valued and his views were heard.” – 2024 Conference Delegate

CONCLUSION

CREATE is honoured and privileged to have hosted our sixth international conference *Voices in Action: Your Stories. Stronger Together*. CREATE would like to thank everyone who was a part of Voices in Action 2024, particularly the incredible young people who shared their voices and experiences.

CREATE's small but dedicated team have worked over the last two years to ensure the conference was a success and to provide a safe space for all to share their voices, stories and ideas. We extend our sincere thank you to our Young Consultants who assisted in a multitude of tasks from planning, facilitating workshops and presentations, being Roving Reporters and more. We have captured young people's voices in our Delegate Statement and will use this document to call on governments all around Australia to better support young people with a care experience and spark positive change to the out-of-home care system.



WITH THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Diamond Partners



Australian Government
Department of Social Services



Government of South Australia
Department for Child Protection

Platinum Partner

**LIFE
WITHOUT
BARRIERS**

Gold Partner



Silver Partner



Bronze Partner

Hollard.

Conference Supporters



Mental Health Provider



Champion a Young Person



Office of the
Children's Guardian



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

With thanks to



Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities

APPENDIX

PROGRAM DAY 1

THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2024

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| 10:00AM | OPENING PLENARY - GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | | | | |
| | <p>MC Welcome - Gregory Nicolau Welcome to Country by Jack Buckskin The Hon Katrine Hildyard, South Australia Minister for Child Protection - Proudly supported by the Government of South Australia, Department for Child Protection Jackie Bray, Chief Executive, South Australian Department for Child Protection - Proudly supported by the Government of South Australia, Department for Child Protection Catherine Liddle, Chief Executive Officer, SNAICC Young Person Address - CREATE Young Consultants Welcome from CREATE Foundation</p> | | | | |
| 11:15AM | MORNING TEA - GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | | | | |
| 11:45AM | GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | GOYDER MEZZANINE | GOYDER PAVILION NORTH | EAST ATRIUM | GOYDER PLAZA |
| | Panel - Young person led | Presentations | Workshop | YP Workshop | YP Workshop |
| | Self-determination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People in Care | Beyond a Checklist and Being Heard: How Young People's voices are shaping the child protection system in Queensland and South Australia - PeakCare Queensland | Advocacy in Action Transition Supports: Housing and cost of living | Creative Workshop with International Guest Catherine Kanvik (USA) | Storytelling through creative writing and poetry Living Arts - Proudly supported by Life Without Barriers |
| 12:15PM | | Raise the Age! - Ashum Owens, Office of Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, South Australia | | | |
| 12:45PM | LUNCH - GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | | | | |
| 1:30PM | Presentations and Q&A | Presentation | Workshop | YP Workshop | YP Workshop |
| | Making a change for children and young people in care - Caine Wild, Wild Intervention, UK | What if we had a child connections system, not just a child protection paradigm? - Jarrod Wheatley | Advocacy in Action Education | Creative Workshop with International Guest Catherine Kanvik (USA) | Hidden conversations: giant flowers, real stories Living Arts - Proudly supported by Life Without Barriers |
| 2:00PM | How stories help us reflect on the past and shape the futures of young people - Iain Thompson, Freedom Road Creative Arts, UK | | | | |
| 2:30PM | AFTERNOON TEA - GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | | | | |
| 3:00PM | CLOSING PLENARY - GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | | | | |
| | <p>MC Day 1 Wrap up - Gregory Nicolau Helen Connolly, South Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People Shona Reid, South Australian Government Guardian for Children and Young People South Australia's Children's Choir: Strong in Culture, Strong in Voice</p> | | | | |
| 3:45PM | CLOSE | | | | |

Sessions in purple open sessions, all welcome!

Sessions in purple are Advocacy in Action, all welcome!

Sessions in yellow are exclusively for young people!

Please note program subject to change - last updated 20 March 2024

PROGRAM DAY 2

FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2024

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| 10:00AM | OPENING PLENARY - GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | | | | |
| | <p>MC Welcome - Gregory Nicolau The Hon Amanda Rishworth, Australian Government Minister for Social Services - Supported by the Australian Government Department of Social Services Anne Hollonds, National Children's Commissioner Cameron Burgess, National Program Director, Mackillop Family Services - 'Lessons from Vienna, making sense of your story' April Lawrie, South Australia Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People</p> | | | | |
| 11:15AM | MORNING TEA - GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | | | | |
| 11:45AM | GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | GOYDER MEZZANINE | GOYDER PAVILION NORTH | EAST ATRIUM | GOYDER PLAZA |
| | Panel - Young person led | Presentation | Workshop | YP Workshop | YP Workshop |
| | Talking with Children's Commissioners about children and young people's rights in out-of-home care | The Australian Child Maltreatment Study: Findings and implications for child protection and out-of-home care systems - Professor Ben Mathews | Advocacy in Action Residential care | Telling stories through drama with International Guest Iain Thompson (UK) | DJ skills workshop DJ Uberjak'd |
| 12:45PM | LUNCH - GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | | | | |
| 1:30PM | Panel - Young person led | Presentations | Workshop | YP Workshop | YP Workshop |
| | Talking with Commissioners for Aboriginal children and young people about Aboriginal children's rights in out-of-home care | Developing spatial design know-how with and for young people living in out-of-home residential care - Prof Suzie Attiwill, School of Architecture and Urban Design RMIT University together with CREATE Young Consultants | Advocacy in Action Siblings | Creative Workshop with International Guest Catherine Kanvik (USA) | DJ skills workshop DJ Uberjak'd |
| 2:00PM | | The effects of extending the out-of-home care age to 21: Understanding the outcomes of extended care policy and legislation in New South Wales - Isabella Kristo | | | |
| 2:30PM | AFTERNOON TEA - GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | | | | |
| 3:00PM | Presentations | Presentations | Workshop | YP Workshop | YP Workshop |
| | Queensland Child Rights Report 2023 - Natalie Lewis, Queensland Commissioner for Children | TBC - Shona Reid, South Australian Guardian for Children and Young People | Advocacy in Action Health and Wellbeing | Creative Workshop with International Guest Catherine Kanvik (USA) | Wild Intervention workshop with International Guest Caine Wild (UK) |
| 3:30PM | What are my rights? Consulting children and young people about how they want to learn about their human rights - Jodie Griffiths-Cook, Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner, ACT, and Amalia Fawcett, Senior Adviser, ACT Human Rights Office | Promoting the voices of young people in South Australia - Lived experience young person group 'No Capes for Change' Proudly supported by the Government of South Australia, Department for Child Protection | Proudly supported by the Australian Government Department of Social Services | | |
| 4:00PM | CLOSE | | | | |
| 7:00PM - 9:30PM | CONFERENCE DINNER ▶ Theme - Neon Nights! Come dressed in bright clothes! | | | | |

Sessions in purple open sessions, all welcome!

Sessions in purple are Advocacy in Action, all welcome!

Sessions in yellow are exclusively for young people!

Please note program subject to change - last updated 20 March 2024

PROGRAM DAY 3

SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| 10:00AM | OPENING PLENARY - GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | | | | |
| | <p>MC Welcome - Gregory Nicolau Anthony Raitman, Executive Director, and Phi Theodoros, Life Without Barriers - Proudly supported by Life Without Barriers Tracie Shipton, Chief Executive, VOYCE NZ - History of how VOYCE has evolved Luke T wyford, Principal Commissioner, Queensland Family and Child Commission - What I have learned from children in care</p> | | | | |
| 11:00AM | MORNING TEA - GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | | | | |
| 11:30AM | GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | GOYDER MEZZANINE | GOYDER PAVILION NORTH | EAST ATRIUM | GOYDER PLAZA |
| | Panel - Young person led | Presentations | Workshop | YP Workshop | YP Workshop |
| | <p>Our Stories - Stronger Together - Lived experience panel</p> | <p>KYA KYANA In my blood my culture runs - Brooke Oliver, Lived experience consultant</p> <hr/> <p>More than just a voice, more than just listening, actual change! - Mercy Community</p> | <p>Advocacy in Action Conference reflection and draft delegate statement</p> | <p>Creative Workshop with International Guest Catherine Kanvik (USA)</p> | <p>On Stage Drama Skills Workshop Adelaide Festival Centre</p> |
| 12:30PM | LUNCH - GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | | | | |
| 1:15PM | Presentation | Presentation | Presentations | YP Workshop | YP Workshop |
| | <p>The "6 Promises" advocacy and concluding performance of the VOYCE waiata (song) -VOYCE NZ Regional Youth Council Members</p> | <p>A Place at the Table: Having a say in decisions about things that affect children in care - Leanne McLean, Commissioner for Children and Young People Tasmania</p> | <p>CREATE Consultations: What we've learned about residential care -Imogen Edeson and Sarah Chew, National Advocacy & Influencing Managers, CREATE Foundation</p> <hr/> <p>CREATE Internships -Linda James and Tameika Joy, Operations Managers, CREATE Foundation</p> | <p>Creative Workshop with International Guest Catherine Kanvik (USA)</p> | <p>On Stage Drama Skills Workshop Adelaide Festival Centre</p> |
| 1:45PM | | | | | |
| 2:15PM | AFTERNOON TEA - GOYDER PAVILLION | | | | |
| 2:30PM | CLOSING PLENARY - GOYDER PAVILION SOUTH | | | | |
| | <p>MC Wrap up - Gregory Nicolau Jackie Bray, Chief Executive, South Australian Department for Child Protection - Proudly supported by the Government of South Australia, Department for Child Protection CREATE Young Consultants Presentation of Delegate Statement</p> | | | | |
| 3:30PM | CLOSE | | | | |

Sessions in purple open sessions, all welcome!

Sessions in purple are Advocacy in Action, all welcome!

Sessions in yellow are exclusively for young people!

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