

TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE

MONTH November
2016

→ ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE... JOURNEY TO SUCCESS ←



Each year, more than 500 young people leave the Queensland child protection system to live independently. Help and support for these young people often comes from family, carers and community members, as well as government and non-government service providers. However, a number of young people make this transition without the support of family or a wider support network.

Transition to Independence Month (T2i Month) is held in November each year to focus on the needs of young people as they make the journey from the child protection system to independence so that they achieve positive life outcomes.

This year's theme *Road to independence... Journey to success* promotes the idea that a young person's transition is a journey that evolves with time, and not something that should be rushed. The journey for young people to become independent and successful should focus on their aspirations and goals and set the direction for their transition to adulthood.

T2i Month is coordinated by G-Force, a sector-wide working party chaired by the CREATE Foundation and made up of government and nongovernment organisations including the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services; Foster Care Queensland; PeakCare Queensland; Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak; Youth Advocacy Centre; Queensland Family and Child Commission; Department of Housing and Public Works; Life Without Barriers; Office of the Public Guardian; and Churches of Christ Care. Young people with a care experience play an active role in contributing to and leading the group's work.

The work of G-Force is grounded in the opinions of young people with an out-of-home-care experience, including the CREATE Foundation Young Consultants participating directly and indirectly in the group. G-Force seeks to support those working with young people in out-of-home-care by sharing practical information, advice and useful resources. The group also provides stakeholders with an opportunity to provide feedback about systemic changes that could lead to improved outcomes for young people in out-of-home-care.

T2i MONTH RESOURCES

G-Force has developed a number of resources to support organisations across Queensland to celebrate T2i Month. These will be made available on the CREATE Foundation website www.createyourfuture.org.au/leaving-care/t2i-month-queensland/

Hashtag #t2imonth has been developed for child protection workers to celebrate the strengths they see in young people, that they wish for young people to see in themselves. Keep an eye out for a poster with more information on being involved in this initiative.

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T2i MONTH LAUNCH

In 2016, T2i Month will be launched in Townsville on Saturday 5 November. For more information about the launch, email Kelly.bucknall@create.org.au

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

During November, sector leaders and child protection practitioners across Queensland are asked to raise awareness of the significance of young people exiting care and transitioning to independence. This includes sharing the key messages of T2i Month through events in local communities, professional development events within organisations or fun activities with young people to address challenges and identify opportunities.

OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN T2i MONTH INCLUDE:

- talking to young people about Next Step After Care and how they can access support www.nextstepaftercare.com.au
- hearing from local young people about how they view transition to independence, and how we can assist them to live independently
- organising your own local event for young people to celebrate their achievements in becoming independent
- coordinating an art exhibition featuring works from young people
- holding a fun group activity with young people (paddle boarding, go-karting) where you talk about the challenges and opportunities of transitioning to independence

- organising a T2i Month expo where local service providers, including Next Step After Care, showcase how they can provide assistance to young people
- participating in the T2i Month statewide # event beginning on 1 November (for more information email Kelly.bucknall@create.org.au)
- coming along with some young people to the CREATE Foundation/Next Step After Care day on 30 November (for more information email Kelly.bucknall@create.org.au).

Make sure you log your planned events with CREATE Foundation by emailing Kelly.bucknall@create.org.au

For further information, please call Kelly Bucknall at CREATE Foundation on 3317 6020.

FOR MORE IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO BE INVOLVED WITH T2i MONTH, PLEASE GO TO WWW.CREATEYOURFUTURE.ORG.AU/ABOUT-ME/LEAVING-CARE/

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