



TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE MONTH November 2017

→ ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE... JOURNEY TO SUCCESS ←

'Road to Independence...Journey to success'

Each year, over 500 young people leave the Queensland child protection system to live independently. Assistance 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 a formal or informal support network.

Transition to Independence Month (T2i Month) is held in November each year highlighting the needs of young people as they make the journey from the child protection system to independence, experiencing positive life outcomes along the way.

The theme "Road to Independence...Journey to success" promotes the idea that a young person's transition is a journey that evolves with time. The journey for young people to become independent and successful ultimately sets the direction for their transition to adulthood.

Transition to Independence Month is coordinated by GForce, a sector-wide working party chaired by the CREATE Foundation and made up of government and non - government organisations. Young people with a care experience play an active role in contributing to and leading the group's work.

T2i Month Resources

GForce have prepared a series of resources, ranging from short videos, research, one page documents and young people's stories, to support organisations around Queensland in celebrating T2i Month. These are available on the CREATE Foundation website

<http://createyourfuture.org.au/about-me/leaving-care/t2i-monthqueensland/>

T2i Month Launch

In 2017, T2i month will be launched in Yeppoon, within the Central Queensland Region, on Friday 3 November, with a series of interactive arts-based workshops incorporating music, digital media, circus skills, painting and dance supported by the local community. The event will also (literally) launch a group of young people from the Region on a 2 day adventure to Great Keppel Island, including developmental and cultural activities. The traditional owners of Great Keppel Island, the Woppaburra people, have gifted the event with the title **Ari Oyi**.

The words Ari Oyi were provided on behalf of the Woppaburra people of Great Keppel Island. Ari Oyi means "sun corroboree". Ari, the sun, is the provider of life with each new day and heals the land and all the people. Oyi- corroboree- is the way we share our stories, dances, thoughts and emotions.

For more information on the launch and the activities surrounding this event please contact kelly.lotz@create.org.au

"Ari Oyi" digital art project

Australia's first people tell stories across the land and the sea and the sky. These stories were told in dance, paintings and songs... What is your story? How will you tell it? How will you create it?





The Central Queensland Region will coordinate a visual art project where young people in care from across the state, can tell their stories (songlines) through visual, literary or digital media. Self-expression through the arts can be an important developmental process to nurture as part of the healing and growth journey. A strong sense of self and identity is an important foundation for transition often overlooked when young people are faced with more practical basic needs. For more information on this contact matthew.armstrong@communities.qld.gov.au

How can you be involved?

During November sector partners across Queensland are encouraged to participate in activities raising awareness of the significance of transitioning to independence for young people exiting care. This includes sharing the key messages of T2i Month via events in local communities, professional development events within organisations or fun activities with young people whereby challenges and opportunities can be addressed.

Other opportunities to participate in the month include:

- Talk to young people about Next Step After Care and how they can access support www.nextstepaftercare.com.au
- Hear from local young people about how they view transition to independence, and how we can assist them to live independently.
- Organise your own local event for young people to celebrate their achievements in becoming independent.
- Coordinate an art exhibition featuring works from young people.
- Hold a fun group activity with young people (paddle boarding, go-karting) where you talk about the challenges and opportunities of transitioning to independence.
- Organise a T2i expo where local service providers, including Next Step After Care,

showcase the ways they can provide assistance to young people.

- Encourage young people to download the 'Sortli' App. A fun, informative and easy-to-navigate, free mobile app for young people to help them with their transition to independence. Sortli is a pocket guide companion to services and support. It provides a step-by-step guide for all the important areas of a young person's life, such as finding a place to live, looking after their health, managing their budget, finding a job, doing training or education and general life skills.

For more ideas on how to be involved with T2i month, please go to

<http://createyourfuture.org.au/about-me/leaving-care/t2i-monthqueensland/>

Make sure you log your planned events with CREATE via email to kelly.lotz@create.org.au

All logged events will receive a certificate of thanks and a show bag of goodies after T2i month.

For young people leaving care and needing some support contact Next Step After Care on 1800639878 (call or text)

For further information on T2i month, please contact Kelly Lotz at CREATE QLD on (07) 3317 6020.