

Transition to Independence

T2I Month – November 2013

Transition to Independence Month was held in November 2013. This year's launch was launched at the Ipswich Flexible Learning Centre. Over 70 people attended the event which was opened by Tracy Davis, the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. Four CREATE Young Consultants spoke about their transition experience and how vital it is for young people to be included in the planning. We also had Mercy Family Services Toowoomba and Uniting Care Goodna share their experiences of working with young people transitioning and their best practice for ensuring the process is smooth and transparent for all involved.

T2I month was marked across Queensland with over 30 events occurring this year. Events ranged from BBQ's, information sessions, bowling nights, high ropes course, jet boat riding, T2I camps and staff training.



Changes to Transition to Independence Living Allowance (TILA)

The Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA) is currently a one-off payment from the Australian Government to help young people who are leaving out-of-home care. It provides a contribution of up to \$1,500 towards the costs involved in moving to independent living.

From 1 January 2014 the way the program is administered will change. Young people, aged between 15 and 25 years who are leaving formal out-of-home will receive more personalised and flexible supports. They will be able to access a \$1,500 allowance for a range of support services as well as training and educational materials and other items like furniture and white goods.

The \$1,500 payment will be available in up to six instalments as agreed between the young person and their case worker, and will be paid by Centrelink. Further information on eligibility and the application process will be available shortly at <http://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/benefits-payments/transition-to-independent-living-allowance-tila/transition-to-independent-living-allowance-tila-program-guidelines>

T2I Co-Design

Feedback on the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services T2I discussion guide has closed. However there will be plenty more opportunities to give feedback on the proposed model and program description. Stay tuned in January and February 2014! So far the Department and CREATE has consulted directly with over 130 workers, service managers, academics and young people in different areas across Queensland, held co-design workshops in Brisbane, Ipswich and Townsville and received feedback into the discussion guide from around the state via email! For more information on the process please contact: rosemary.jenkinson@communities.qld.gov.au or lucas.moore@create.org.au

Child and Youth Engagement

DVD Resource explaining QCAT process

Anti-discrimination Queensland have released a new video about being heard in QCAT and other tribunal forums. 'Getting a fair go at the tribunal' can be viewed at <http://www.adcq.qld.gov.au/media/video/youtube-assets/qcat>.

Participation meme

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G-Force are launching a new participation resource aimed at young people! The meme was developed by young consultant Gerry Norris. This resource tool can be used as a poster in waiting areas or as an online resource. It is aimed at empowering young people to speak up if they have an issue, encouraging young people to be a part of the conversation about decisions that affect their lives. For a copy of the meme please contact kelly.bucknall@create.org.au.

For more information on G-Force please contact lucas.moore@create.org.au