

MEDIA STATEMENT

16 November 2022

CRA welcomes increasing age for NSW State care to 21

CRA applauds the NSW Government decision to increase the age for support of young people in care to 21 years and has written to the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones, Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Services, supporting the decision.

CRA welcomes the outcome which brings NSW in line with other Australian states in providing financial support for young people beyond the age of 18. Although 18 marks a significant milestone in a person's life, young people beyond 18 in state care continue to need financial support to make the transition to living independently. Continuing the carer's allowance for families looking after a young person in state care until 21 or offering an extended after-care allowance to young people living independently, will go a long way towards reducing the risk of homelessness or incarceration that many young people transitioning from state care experience.

CRA President, Peter Jones OSA said, "This is a significant step forward in supporting vulnerable young people and the families who care for them. Currently, almost half of young people leaving state care become homeless and jobless within a year. Supporting young people to manage this transition, both financially and in other ways, will ensure a better future for those who have already experienced considerable trauma in their lives."

Anne Walker, CRA National Executive Director said, "Safeguarding involves listening to the needs of young people, as well as providing practical support in their journey to adulthood. We congratulate the Minister in responding to the needs of some of the most vulnerable in our society."

CRA looks forward to hearing of further initiatives by the NSW State Government to support vulnerable young people and their families.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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