

# The facts about 'Out of home care'

- 1** 'Out of home care' refers to a number of government provided services including foster care, crisis centres or family group homes.
- 2** Around 39,000 Australian children under the age of 18 are living in out of home care because of dangerous family situations. Over the past decade, this number has risen every year.
- 3** Approximately 70 per cent remain in out of home care for at least 2 years – with around 34 per cent spending five years or longer in care services away from their family.
- 4** Almost 25 per cent of these children will be moved from one care placement to another at least ten times. Such instability and uncertainty has severe impacts on a young person's emotional, intellectual and behavioural development.
- 5** Once these kids have turned 18, they are classified as 'adults' and removed from the care system. Without support, they will find it difficult transitioning to life on their own.
- 6** Teenagers in NSW who have grown up in care services are almost 15 times more likely to end up in the juvenile justice system than those who stay with their families. A NSW study reveals that 36 per cent of women and 21 per cent of young men on community service orders had long histories of care placements because of severe abuse or neglect at home.
- 7** For many of these vulnerable young people, furthering their education or finding ongoing employment will be impossible. The majority will struggle to find a place to live facing the possibility of living on the streets.



**DUNLEA CENTRE**  
AUSTRALIA'S ORIGINAL BOYSTOWN

We have no association with Boystown in QLD who run a lotteries program to raise funds.

✉ PO Box 99 Engadine 2233

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# Louis is one of the lucky ones

Before coming to the Dunlea Centre, 14-year-old Louis thought abuse and trauma were just part of growing up.

We made sure Louis and his family received the support they needed to overcome their past, and build a better future – together.

Thousands of Australia's most vulnerable young people like Louis and their families are in crisis.

Your donation will help them heal from violence and hardship. Please give generously today.

## **Dunlea – turning lives around**

At the Dunlea Centre, our team see first-hand how distress, fear and violence can severely impact the lives of young people.



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Family trauma can have lasting effects on children and teenagers, but we know something can be done. We believe in our young people's ability to heal from conflict, and we have great faith in their ability to create positive change.

- We provide families with support and assistance during a crisis, empowering them to face their issues together.
- Services like the Family Preservation Service helps keep families together, helping both parents and children through conflict and minimising the chances of children being placed in out of home care.
- No other facility offers residential care, counselling services and educational programs to support young people and their families or carers. It's what makes the Dunlea Centre so unique – and it's how we are helping hundreds of people through hard times.
- Up to 32 young people are in our residential program at any one time. They stay at the Centre four days a week, receiving individually and professionally tailored education, therapy and life-skills services, returning to their family home on weekends to practise what they have learnt and work on specific goals.
- Once their time with us is over, they are given support and guidance through education or work-based programs to help with their transition back to life outside the Centre.
- Our approach achieves huge success for so many young people, both in the short and long term. Around 80 per cent of the teenagers who come to the Dunlea Centre are still actively engaged in either an education or workplace environment 2 years after leaving the program.

Please send your gift today to help more children like Louis and their families heal the past and embrace the future.



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