Extending care: Supporting young people’s transition from out-of-home care to adulthood

15 May 2019 | Paul McDonald, Philip Mendes

Comments

“Apart from extending care, have you identified any extra supports that should be included in this extension of care to support independent living? Or, what must those extra three years include to improve positive outcomes?”

Anonymous | 28 May 2019

“Stable and affordable housing is a key to positive transitions so it is crucial that a guaranteed housing allowance (whether to support extended foster care or alternative arrangements for those leaving residential care) be included in any extended care programs. Resourcing to undertake further or higher education is also important as is evident from the current Raising Expectations project in Victoria. Another important resource is support to engage with a range of social and cultural networks. The latter is particularly valuable for Indigenous care leavers.

A/Prof Philip Mendes | 28 May 2019

“Hi Philip, on the international evidence (Matheson), did the 'strict' approach to training employment variable improve results for young people or exacerbate them?”

Meaghan | 28 May 2019

“Matheson didn’t investigate this distinction. Nor did Mark Courtney and his colleagues because they compared those young people who met the education/employment criteria to participate in extended care to those young people who didn’t enter extended care. In short, extended care with those conditions excludes many care leavers who may be particularly vulnerable. The only way arguably to answer your question accurately on outcomes would be to include two separate groups in extended care who had similar backgrounds prior to transitioning: one with education/employment conditions, and one without.

A/Prof Philip Mendes | 28 May 2019

“Is there work being done to help young foster people leaving care connect with others across Australia to offer an opportunity to develop a support group?”

1 Extending care: Supporting young people’s transition from out-of-home care to adulthood, 15 May 2019 | Paul McDonald, Philip Mendes
Susan | 28 May 2019

I understand that Victorian agencies such as the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, Berry Street, St Luke’s Anglicare Bendigo and the Victorian office of CREATE have formed peer support groups. It is likely that similar peer networks have been formed in other States and Territories by the CREATE Foundation or other organisations.

A/Prof Philip Mendes | 28 May 2019