



Kennerley

Building a brighter future for Tasmanian families since 1869

RESTORING HOPE & *Transforming Lives*





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Message

FROM THE CEO

There are many things we can all do to improve and enrich young peoples lives. This year has seen Kennerley focus on listening to children and young peoples voices and changing our practice to ensure we include them in our day to day decision making. Our Child Safe Organisational training delivered by NAPCAN has also provided tools that enabled us to challenge how we do business and improve our systems.

We welcome the Tasmanian government's commitment to out of home care and sectoral reform and we look forward to being a true partner as we progress the reforms.

One of the ways we have embedded child safe practices is by appointing a Young Ambassador, a young person who has experienced out of home Foster care, and, can speak very eloquently about how we can improve our systems.

It is with great pride that we celebrate her achievements and success and we are grateful to all the young people in out of home care that contributed to this booklet. We could not have done this without you.

Our Young Ambassador



I am excited by the opportunity to make a real difference to young peoples experience of Foster care by ensuring that they are heard and represented.

Whilst there are many challenges involved when you are trying to change whole systems it is critical that not only do you include young people, it also involves changing culture and practice when working with children and families.

I look forward to seeing real changes and a commitment that surpasses election cycles. As the Young Ambassador I hope to provide real leadership by influencing the outcomes and their care experience by advocating for their general rights and giving them a voice.

As a starting point I was involved recently in workshops that sought to identify things that Kennerley was doing really well, but further to identify things that the State foster care system could do better to improve children and young peoples experience.

I graduated from the Moving On Program, a transitional independent living program that assists young people exiting foster care to gain the critical life skills so that they can more than just survive the system. They assist us each to thrive and reach our individual potential.

What our young people aged 15-26 years said...

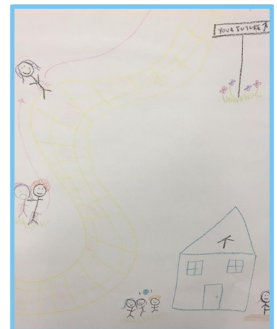
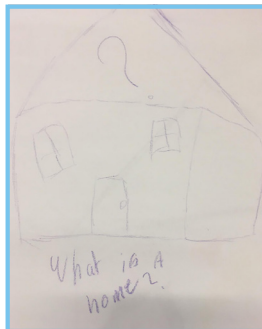
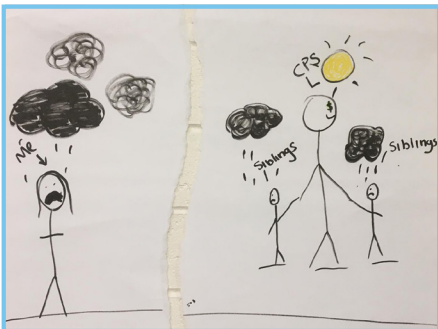
WHAT KENNERLEY DOES REALLY WELL?

- They help us to transition to adulthood, opportunities to participate in recruitment of their staff/training with NAPCAN and Resilience workshops.
- They help us to learn the valuable life skills we need to succeed without smothering us.
- They go above and beyond.
- We feel welcome and a part of something.
- We learn the independence skills we need.
- They provide us with a home and we feel loved.
- They help us to make future goals.
- They help us to budget, cook and learn to be independent.
- They help us to manage our time and be organised for school and work and our appointments.
- They help us when we are stressed.
- KCH is our lifeline.
- There is support for our real family and acceptance.
- They accept our sexuality, race, culture and gender.
- They help us with employment resumes and other stuff.
- They give us pathways to education even after we turn 18.
- They do more to support kids than others people do.
- They help us to think about a better future and plan.
- They give you opportunities to participate like (NAPCAN/this).
- There is always help when you need it and someone to call.
- They go above and beyond what everyone else does in the Moving on Program.
- They help to connect you to your family / siblings / real family if its safe.
- They are not about the dollar – they do more with less.



WHAT COULD CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES AND FOSTER CARERS DO BETTER?

- Better screening / monitoring of carers to get the right ones
- Better matching processes for children and young people so that they fit with a family.
- Foster carers could be more adaptive as could Child Safety Services as young people grow up they need more freedom.
- Communication – you need to listen to us and believe us when we tell you stuff and follow up.
- Carers need to introduce us as young people staying with them or just use our first name – not say a kid in foster care (avoid labelling) and language because people judge us – like we aren't deserving or we are nothing.
- Moving on Program only has seven places there are about 70 young people in transition turning 18 this year – what happens to them? Homelessness?
- Could we think about building more units – for young people leaving foster homes – stop ressie care it doesn't work.
- We need to learn skills in foster care and get us ready for life – some carers do but it should be all.
- Child safety are supposed to be there for the young people but they aren't cant Non-Government organisations like Kennerley follow up instead – they know the kids – they see them less support for the foster carers more support for the kids.
- Moving on Program could be a better experience if there were more social activities, and the location could be more central than the back of Moonah.
- Consistency across foster carer households.
- Matching young people and carers in a planned transition.



Dream big... WHAT CAN WE DO IN THE FUTURE TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE IN A BETTER WAY?

- More placement options for kids that are struggling.
- A system that caters for all the need of the young people.
- More 1:1 support for young people.
- Stop thinking about the wallet.
- Build more moving on program units with Kennerley.
- Find a good match that suits the needs of the young people and the family.
- More liaison between the carer / young people and the CSS.
- Help the parents before its too late help the kids before its too late.
- Involve the parents in the care experience.
- Parents are terrified they will stuff up and then be stigmatized.
- Need a middle person between the carer and the department to sign off on things – why can't Andrea or the NGO managers do it CSS never get back to you.
- We are sick of speaking up and no one listens – if you listened to all the young people over the years the system would have changed.
- Need to take responsibility – tired of hearing excuses like CSOs say their case loads are too big and they are too busy.
- More training for carers – talk to them about shifting boundaries as young people grow up involve young people like Kennerley do in the training .
- Work more with schools.
- Do more work with birth families to involve them where possible where safe – connection after we leave care.
- More work with birth families before its too late.
- Listen WHEN WE DON'T WANT to see our families.
- Carers should never say Jo is in OOHC, he is a foster kid, NEVER.
- We are not ashamed of being in care – but don't tell everyone – we get branded and judged – think about your language and how you speak about us.
- Believe children – we don't lie about abuse – speak out about it – it happens – talk about it – help to prevent it.
- Make the time for the connection and relationship – don't care how many are on your case load it's your job and its an important one – its our life.

**THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WERE AGED BETWEEN 15 TO 26 YEARS
AND ARE STILL RECEIVING KENNERLEY SUPPORT...**

We're still there because they still need us

What our children aged 8 to 12 years old said...

WHAT IS KENNERLEY? WHAT KENNERLEY DOES WELL AND WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

- Kennerley helps children and parents, and they help kids if they can't be at home.
- Different situations Kennerley have helped families – my family.
- Help people who aren't going to school so they don't feel dumb.
- Kennerley have people to help you with stuff.
- Look after people who aren't respected.
- They help to take care of people that aren't respected properly.
- They take care of people who have been taken away from their families when sort of bad stuff has happened to them.
- You can go to Kennerley when your mum and dad go to jail, if they die or they do drugs.
- They are good because they are not like the welfare, and they don't hurt kids.
- Kennerley are not like the zoo or the lollie shop but they should be.
- They are not your mum but they can get you somewhere to live.
- The department is our mum and dad, they are our parents Kennerley arent.
- Kennerley is not where you live, you live with their carers.

i love kennerley
because the keep
us safe

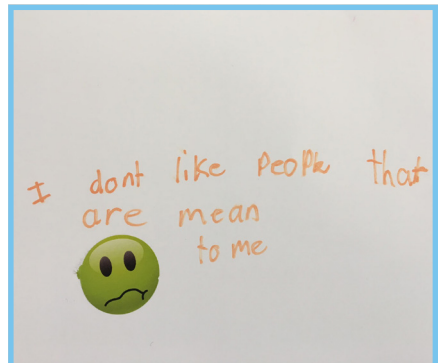


everyone
at Kennerley
are really
nice!!!
And awesome



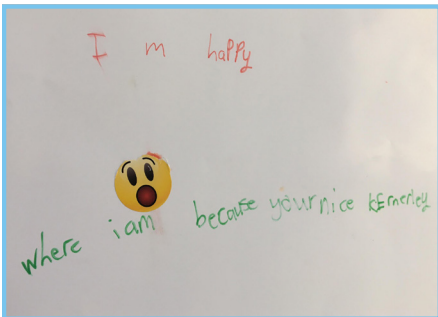
WHAT COULD WE DO BETTER

- More fun for kids and more contact with other Kennerley kids.
- Listen to us and get the department to make decisions for us faster.
- More colourful rainbows and unicorns in the building.



Dream Big... MAGIC WANDS

- Kennerley should be the department because they do it differently.
- When carers are good carers and they look after us they should get to be like our mum and dad, and we should never have to leave when you have us under 18 years orders – you should make it that way.
- We should be able to see our brothers and sisters – when they aren't with Kennerley we don't get to see them as much as when they were with Kennerley.
- We need to get more Kennerley carers so that they can help more kids because its not good when we don't get to go to Kennerley first when we come into care because it's scary – I went to another carers and they were not like Kennerley carers.
- We should have pets at Kennerley.
- More ipads at kennerley.
- DHHS should be more nice to us and carers and Kennerley.
- Stay with the same carers till we are 18.
- We should be a part of choosing who our carers are – or get to move if we don't like our carers.
- If parents do the right thing they should get their kids back.



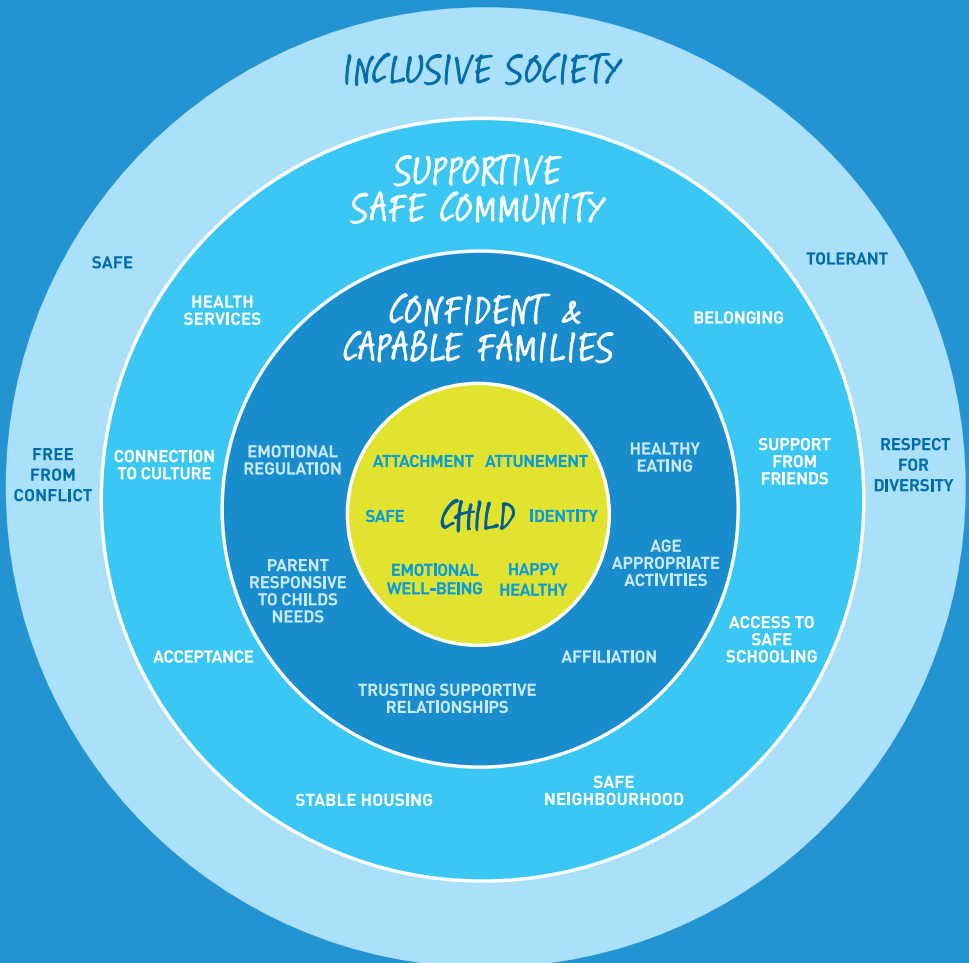
THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WERE AGED BETWEEN 8 TO 12 YEARS AND ARE STILL RECEIVING KENNERLEY SUPPORT...

We're still there because they still need us

Our Model Of Care

THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN ARE FRONT AND CENTRE
IN ALL OUR THINKING.

This diagram shows the inter-relationship of certain factors that should be in place for a child to feel safe, to not be disadvantaged, and to go on and reach their full potential.





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