

parity

A Call for Contributions – February 2021

The February 2021, "A New Direction Home: The Future of Leaving Care" edition of Parity

Deadline: COB Friday, 12 February, 2021.

Word length: Contributions can be up to 1,600 words. See Page 3 for further details. Submissions to be sent to: parity@chp.org.au

This edition of Parity is sponsored by Anglicare Victoria, Mackillop Family Services, Berry Street Family Services, and the Victorian Commission for Children and Young People.

Introduction

The planned February 2021 "A New Direction Home: The Future of Leaving Care" edition of Parity follows on from the two previous editions of Parity devoted to the nexus between out of home care, (OoHC) and leaving out of home care, homelessness and the risk of homelessness.

The first of these, the July 2010 "Everybody Knows: Leaving Care and Homelessness" edition clearly identified that young people leaving care at 18 were at a far greater risk of homelessness and a range of other connected personal and social issues and problems, including, for example, unemployment, involvement in the juvenile justice system and mental health and alcohol and other drug issues.

The second of these editions, the February 2016 "From Leaving Care to Extending Care: Preventing the Transition to Homelessness" argued strongly for increasing the statutory age that young people could stay in OoHC to 21 and the need for the planning and development of the necessary transitional programs and services that would give young adults the skills, capacities and the opportunities to live independently. Moreover, the edition highlighted the overwhelming evidence from international examples of the successful results of the move to extend leaving care till 21.

The "A New Direction Home: The Future of Leaving Care" edition will examine and discuss the changes that has been made in the management and regulation of OoHC in different state and territory jurisdictions since 2016, in particular, in those jurisdictions that have already embraced extending the age of leaving care till 21, that is, Tasmania and Victoria.

The edition will also look at changes in the governance and regulation of the provision of OoHC, and in particular, the development of programs and services that have been put in place and services to assist the transition of young people from OoHC to independence. Most importantly the edition will discuss what is actually involved in extending care to 21; what are the implications of extending care for the provision of government supports and the development and implementation of relevant and appropriate programs and services

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to support young people transitioning to independence. For example, the provision of tailored education and employment services and programs, specifically designed to assist in the successful transition to independence.

In essence, the planned February 2021 “*A New Direction Home: The Future of Leaving Care*” edition will look at what extending care would, or should look like following the extension of the age of leaving care till 21. In order to further support the campaign for adoption of extending care to 21 in all state and territory jurisdictions this edition is intended to give all those involved in the provision and reform of OoHC the opportunity to have their say.

A Framework for Discussion

Part 1: Why Extend the Age of Leaving Care?

Young people leaving OoHC experience a range of poor outcomes along the whole range of social indices including health, housing, education and employment. They also experience higher levels of chronic housing instability and the risk of homelessness.

It is universally acknowledged that there is a clear and unequivocal nexus between leaving care at 18 and the likelihood of becoming homeless. Likewise, a disproportionately large number of people who later become entrenched in long-term homelessness have been in OoHC as young people.

There is considerable research that demonstrates that young people leaving care at 18 struggle with housing stability, employment and access to further education. Up to two thirds of young people experiencing homelessness have had histories of OoHC. Within the first twelve months of leaving care, over half of these young people will experience unemployment, become a new parent, become engaged in the justice system or be in transition temporary housing.

Part 2: What is Involved in Implementing Extending the Age of Leaving Care?

- What have been the legislative and regulatory changes introduced by those state governments that have increased the age of leaving OoHC to 21?
- How has increasing the age of leaving care to 21 impacted on the provision of OoHC and the supply and regulation of OoHC?
- How has increasing the age of leaving OoHC to 21 impacted on the critical processes of Transition Planning for leaving care?
- What additional/different services and supports have been developed and implemented to further assist those wanting to take advantage of the additional three years available to them to transition out of OoHC?
- What are some examples of these services and supports?

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- Who has been responsible for developing and implementing these services and supports? Governments? Carers? What role have young people in care played in their development?
- How have these services and supports worked to assist the transition out of OoHC and help prevent young people from becoming homeless or at risk of homelessness?
- Has there been any preliminary assessment and evaluation of the successes of these services and supports and the benefits of extending the age of leaving OoHC to 21?
- What are some of the problems and issues that have arisen in those jurisdictions that have extended the age of leaving care?
- How will extending the age of leaving care to 21 impact on young people from diverse communities and from Aboriginal families?
- What appropriate services and supports need to be developed to meet their specific needs and requirements?

Part 3: Learning from Lived Experience: What do young people in care think about extending the age of leaving care?

- What are the views and opinions of young people in OoHC on the benefits of extending the period of care by three years to 21?
- What services and supports do young people in OoHC believe they require in the extended period of OoHC to assist them in their transition to independence?
- How can the views and experiences of young people in care and those leaving care be incorporated into the ongoing developments of services, programs and policies?
- What do young people in OoHC think will be of assistance in preventing them from becoming homeless or at risk of homelessness?

Part 4: Opinion Pages

- What needs to be done to ensure that the extension of OoHC to 21 is made available nationally and is adopted as policy by all levels of government?

Contributing to the February 2021 "A New Direction Home: The Future of Leaving Care" edition of Parity

Deadline: The deadline for contributions: COB Friday, 12 February. Should additional time be required please contact the *Parity* Editor: parity@chp.org.au

Submissions format: All contributions should be submitted as Word attachments to parity@chp.org.au

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Artwork: Contributors are invited to submit the artwork they would like to accompany their article. Inclusion is dependent on the space being available. If artwork is not provided and is required, it will be selected by the *Parity* Editor.

Word length: Contributions can be up to 1,600 words. This equates to a double page spread in *Parity*. Single page articles can be up to 800 words in length. Contributions of a greater length should be discussed with the *Parity* Editor.

Questions: If you have any questions at all about contributing to this edition please contact the *Parity* Editor by email parity@chp.org.au or ring 0466 619 582.

Embedded media: Contributors are able to make suggestions for the placement of relevant hyperlinks, video and other multimedia within their content which can be embedded in the *Parity* online edition. Any suggestions will be reviewed by and decided upon by the *Parity* editor.

Referencing

All works that are cited or referred to in an article should be referenced. *Parity* does not encourage contributors to list a bibliography of references used in the development of an article but are *not* cited in the article. There is simply insufficient space for the inclusion of extensive bibliographies. The *Parity* referencing protocol is as follows:

In-text citations

CHP uses numbered-citation for all in-text citations.

- Number references consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. The first reference you cite will be numbered (1) in the text, and the second reference you cite will be numbered (2), and so on.
- A number is assigned to each reference as it is used. Even if the author is named in your text, a number must still be used.
- References are listed in numerical order at the end of the document.
- If you use a reference consecutively assign the consecutive number and use *ibid*.
- If the same reference elsewhere in your article, assign the consecutive number and use *op. cit*. For example, Seung S 2012, *op cit*, p. 34.
- The number can be placed outside the text punctuation to avoid disruption to the flow of the text.
- If a single sentence uses two or more citations, simply identify the references one after the other.

For example:

International research has found that resilience in a homeless youth sample correlates with lower levels of psychological distress, suicide ideation, violent behaviour and substance abuse. (4) (5)

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Guidelines for Referencing in *Parity*

All references used in *Parity* articles should be listed using the following guidelines:

Books:

Author's surname, initial(s), year of publication, Title of book, Publisher, Place of Publication, Page number(s).

For example:

1. Seung S 2012, *Connectome: How the Brain's Wiring Makes Us Who We Are*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston, p.90.

Journal Articles

Author's surname, initial(s), year of publication, 'Title of article', *Title of Journal*, volume number, issue number, Page number(s).

For example:

Trevithick P 2003 'Effective Relationship Based Practice', *Journal of Social Work Practice*, vol.17, no.2, pp.163-176.

Newspaper articles:

With identified author:

Authors Surname Initial Year of publication, 'Title of article', *Name of publication*, Date and year of publication, Page number(s) or <URL> if applicable.

For example:

Kissane K 2008, 'Brumby calls for tough sentences', *The Age*, 29 October 2017, p. 8.

With no author:

Use 'Unknown'

For example:

Unknown 2008, 'Brumby calls for tough sentences', *The Age*, 29 October 2017, p. 8.

Webpage/document within a website or blog Post:

Author's surname (if known) Initial, 'Page/Blog/Document Title', *The person or organisation responsible for the website*, Year of Publication (if known) <URL>

For example:

Greenblatt S, 'A special letter from Stephen Greenblatt', Australian Council of Social Services, 2017 <<http://acoss.org/media/greenblatt>>

Audio podcast:

Speaker/Hosts surname Initial, 'Title of episode', *Title of Podcast*, Year and date of Publication, <URL> (if available).

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For example:

Todd B 2018, 'What homelessness looks like for women', *Stuff Mom Never Told You*, 14 March 2018 <<https://www.stuffmomnevertoldyou.com/podcasts/what-homelessness-looks-like-for-women.html> >

Online video/film or documentary:

Title Date of recording, Format, Publisher.

For example:

Indigenous homelessness 1992, video recording, Green Cape Wildlife Films.

Personal communication:

Personal communication may include (but are not limited to) email, fax, interview, conversations, lectures, speeches, telephone conversations and letters. Usually personal communications do not appear, as the information is not retrievable. However, due to the numbered citations used in *Parity*, we ask that they be included as follows:

Author's surname First name, Method of communication, Date and year of Communication

For example:

Johnson George, Telephone interview, 12 August 2018.

Citing the same reference more than once:

When a reference is cited a number of times, use *op cit.* after the year has been given. If the page number is different from the first use, cite the new page number as well.

For example:

Asante K O and Meyer-Weitz A 2015 *op cit.* pp. 230-231.

Citing the same reference consecutively

Use *Ibid.* when the same reference appears consecutively. If the page number is different from the first use, cite the page number as well.

For example:

1. Florn B H 2015, 'The cost of youth homelessness', *Journal of Adolescence*, vol.17, no.2, pp.163-176.
2. *Ibid.* pp.32-33.

Multiple Authors

For every reference type, give all the authors Surnames and first Initials followed by a comma in the bibliography. The last author listed should be preceded by 'and'.

For example:

Sharp J, Peters J and Howard K 2002, *The management of a student research project*, Gower, Aldershot, England.

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Content

By providing your contribution, you confirm and agree that (except where you have referenced or cited any other's work) the contribution is your original work and has not been copied from any other source.

Use of content

If your contribution is accepted, it will be published by or on CHP's behalf in an edition of the *Parity* magazine. *Parity* is available in hard copy and online.

Online copies of back editions of *Parity* can be found on:

<http://search.informit.com.au/browseJournalTitle;res=IELHSS;issn=1032-6170>

Assistance and Questions

Feedback, input and assistance can be provided with drafts if required. The *Parity* editor is available at all stages of the preparation of your contribution to look at drafts and provide input and feedback. The earlier drafts are received for feedback, the better. If prospective contributors have any questions they should contact the *Parity* Editor, Noel Murray, parity@chp.org.au Ph: 0466 619 582