



HOME STRETCH

QUEENSLAND

OUR VISION

All young Queenslanders in care have the option of extended care and support until the age of 21 years.

Who are we?

The Queensland Steering Group comprises 14 major care providers and peak bodies, and a youth advisor with lived experience of the care system. We support **many thousands of young people in care.**

Nationally, the movement comprises nearly 200 organisations and 10,000 individuals.

Why the option of extended care & support?

- Most young people today live at home well into their 20s. Queensland funding for young people in state care **stops** at just 18 or 19.
- Current supports are **positive but insufficient.**
- **We need to do more.** Care leavers are over-represented in homelessness, justice, unemployment and early parenthood statistics; have poor educational outcomes; and face more physical and mental health issues as a result of past trauma.
- There is **compelling international evidence** for the benefits of extended care and support up to 21 years.
- Deloitte Access Economics predict that for every extra \$1.00 spent on extended care and support to 21, **Queensland benefits by at least \$3.30** in reduced crime, homelessness, mental health care, hospitalisation and drug dependency.

I think overall where I needed care the most was right before I turned 18. That's kind of where I felt my life fall apart... I guess it's like a really big impact because since I was 12 years old... I've been relying on having like all of these workers in my life ... (Residential care leaver, female, 18)