

Setting the Record Straight for the Rights of the Child

National Summit 8-9 May 2017 Communiqué

rights-record.it.monash.edu #RightsRecords



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CHILD MIGRANTS TRUST



Connecting Home
a service for the Stolen Generations



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The Setting the Record Straight for the Rights of the Child Initiative has been established in partnership with Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN), the Child Migrants Trust, Connecting Home, CREATE Foundation, Federation University's Collaborative Research Centre in Australian History (CRAH), Monash University's Centre for Organisational and Social Informatics (COSI) and the University of Melbourne's eScholarship Research Centre (ESRC).



The recordkeeping and archiving needs for childhood out-of-home care are part of one of society's most pressing and complex problems, namely ensuring that the systems set up to protect children from abuse and neglect do not themselves cause harm. What do we need to know, and what do we need to do, to promote a child or young person's best interests and foster their wellbeing through quality recordkeeping systems?

On 8 and 9 May 2017, approximately 180 participants gathered for the Setting the Record Straight for the Rights of the Child Summit at the Deakin Edge Federation Square, Melbourne to address this challenge.

Representing a range of community, organisational, government and professional perspectives we came together with a common concern that recordkeeping and archiving, despite improvements in response to a range of inquiries and apologies over the past two decades, continues to let down children caught up in child welfare and protection systems. With a shared recognition of the systemic nature of the problem, we met to discuss how to transform the way records for childhood out-of-home care are created, captured, managed, archived and accessed to meet lifelong identity, memory and accountability needs.

On day one we listened to and learned from Stolen Generations, Former Child Migrants, Forgotten Australians, Older and Younger Care Leavers about the impacts failings in recordkeeping and archiving systems have on people's lives. We heard that urgent action was needed now – not only to meet the needs of aging populations, but also to ensure that recordkeeping and archiving for children and young people in statutory care today contribute to enabling them to live up to their potential. On day two we discussed ideas and actions to improve, ensure and enact rights in records and recordkeeping for people who experience childhood out-of-home care.

We imagined a future vision of a distributed participatory recordkeeping and archiving regime based on principles that recognise:

- Rights of multiple co-creators of the archive (individuals, families, carers, case workers, service providers, government agencies and regulators etc.) and
- Rights of the individual over the management and access to these records for each of the co-creators.

In recognising that this requires a radical redesign of recordkeeping and archiving frameworks, processes, systems and technologies, we also discussed the improvements that could be made under existing discretionary powers.

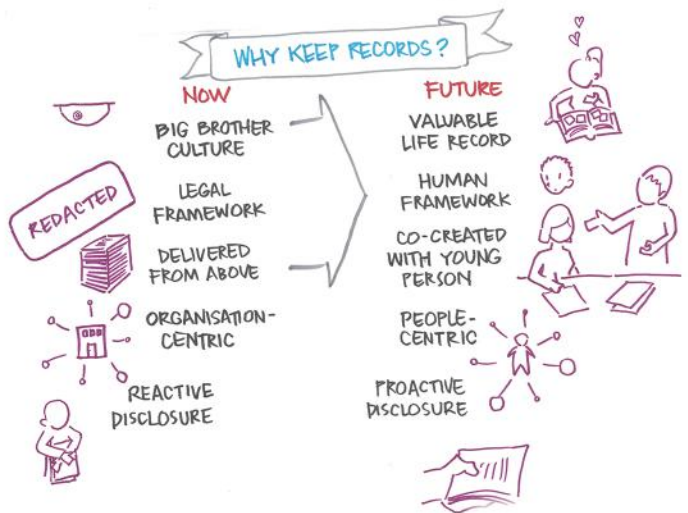
With the insight, learnings, new connections and strengthened relationships developed over the two days, we resolved to develop and advocate for a unified, collaborative and strategic approach in order to address the recordkeeping and archiving challenges.

In the longer term we commit to the development of a **National Framework for Recordkeeping for Childhood Out-of-Home Care** by 2020, and to pursue its implementation, monitoring and evaluation over the following decade, i.e. 2020-2030. In the shorter term and by mid 2018 we commit to developing a priority plan of action and advocacy for immediate co-ordinated improvements.

"PLANNING THE FUTURE"

PART ④ DEVELOPING AN AGENDA

➔ WHAT'S POSSIBLE?



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