



*Let's finish  
what we started*

## Conversation Starter Guide

In Australia, 3000 young people get kicked out of the state care system each year on their 18th birthday.

This means, young people are cut off from the support they need, are thrown into adult life, and often have no-one to turn to in their 20's.

### **We can change this**

In Australia, more than half of the young people living with one of both parents haven't left the family home until their mid to late 20's. Young people leaving state care deserve the same support as everyone else.

### **Why start a conversation?**

We invite everyone to start a conversation with family, friends, networks and colleagues to raise awareness of the issues faced by young people leaving state care.

### **How does it work**

Talking about this issues is easy. Here are things to keep in mind:

- Be open to share why this issue matters to you
- Identify people you know who might be interested to ask and answer a few questions
- Choose a time and place for the conversation that is relaxed and unhurried
- Have the website handy for extra information to refer to
- Invite people to take one action, whether it's starting another conversation or any of the actions on the website.

### **What else can I do?**

Go to the Take Action page on [thehomestretch.org.au](http://thehomestretch.org.au) website and 'Take Action'

And most importantly keep the conversation going.

## Starting a conversation

- I'd like to tell you about an issue that I read about...
- Did you know that 64% of the young homeless population have care histories.
- Did you know that we terminate care for young people in state care at 18?
- The UK and most states in the US have extended care to 21 and this has cut homelessness rates for this cohort by half and has doubled the education participation rates.

You have the  
power to  
change lives!!!

## Asking Questions

Do you remember when you were 18 years old? What was happening in your life at that time? Who was around, what were you doing, how were you feeling about your future?

At what age did you feel like you were an adult? Who contributed to that feeling? How were you supported to 'become' or 'begin' being an adult?

When did you become fully independent of other people? Can you imagine being totally independent of all people at age 18?

Can you imagine asking your own children to leave home at 18, without family or friends providing some form of support?

Would you be willing to watch a quick video that shows the poor outcomes of care leavers and the positive outcomes if young people had the option to remain in care to 21 years?