



Staying in Care Until 21: Views of Young People

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Young adults in Australia are staying with "parents" longer.

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"I think my parents expected me to move out ages ago."

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Age: 20–24 years

1981: 36%

2016: 43%

Why should those in OOHC be different?

Stretch Symposium, Sydney, 28 August 2019

Presentation Outline



Preliminary results of CREATE's latest *Post-Care Survey*

- Survey respondents;
- Living arrangements of Care Leavers;
- Comparison of outcomes : Stay vs. Leave

Consultation with *Young People* with a Care Experience

- The SA context
- Views on remaining with carer
- Likely outcomes with extended care

CREATE's Post-Care Survey 2019



Jurisdiction	Number When Completing Survey	Number During Placement
ACT	11	10
NSW	64	64
NT	15	19
QLD	78	74
SA	14	14
TAS	27	28
VIC	73	72
WA	43	44
Total	325	325

CREATE's Post-Care Survey 2019



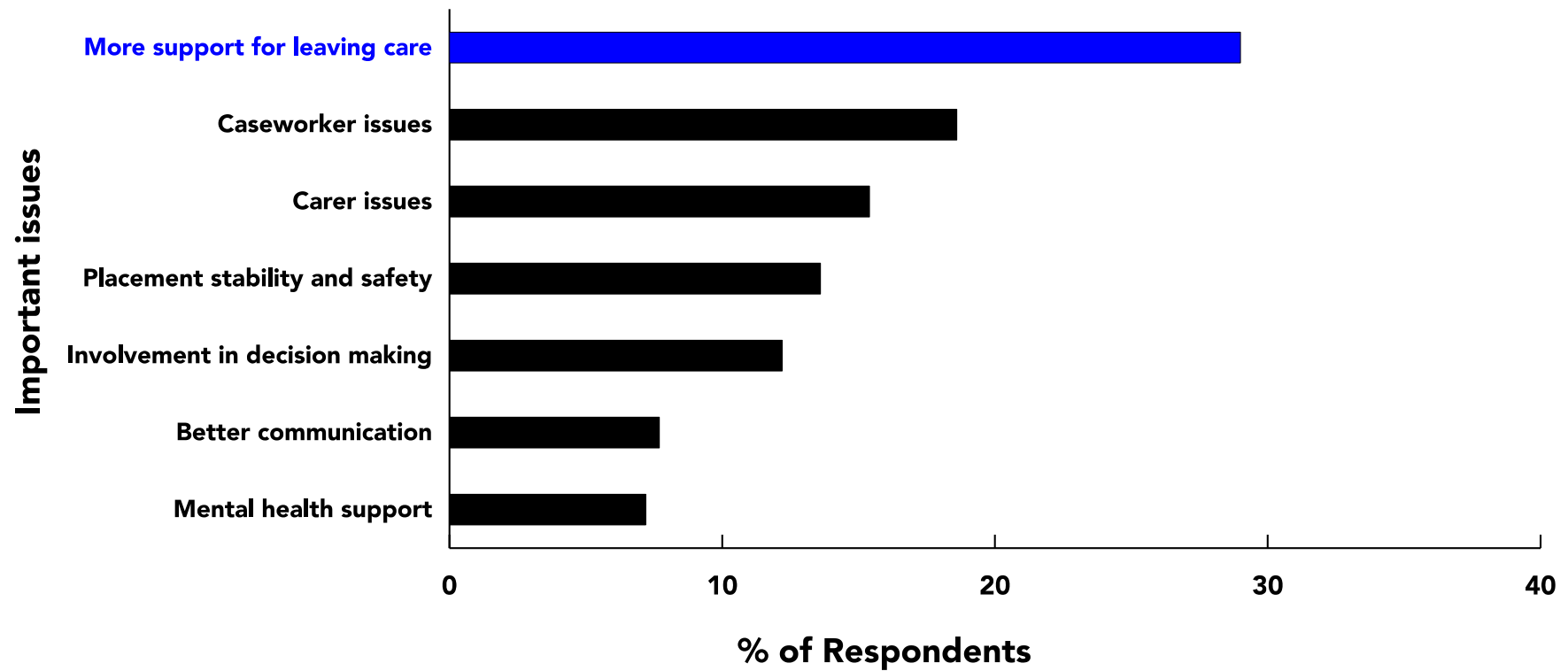
Demographics

Age (Years)	Number of Young People	%
18	54	16.6
19	50	15.4
20	49	15.1
21	40	12.3
22	32	9.8
23	28	8.6
24	40	12.3
25	32	9.8
Total	325	100.0

Female: 67%

Indigenous: 22%

CREATE's Post-Care Survey 2019



Accommodation after Leaving Care

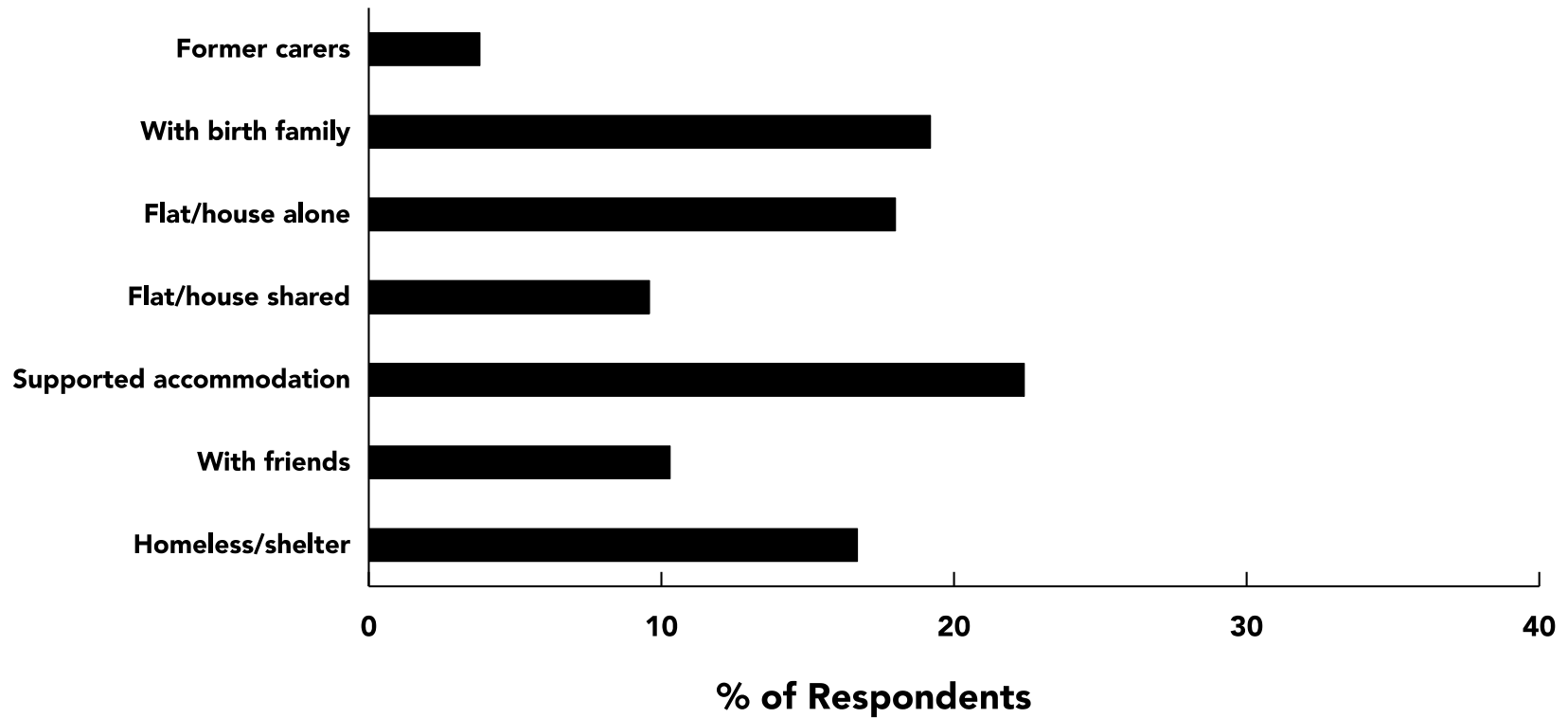
- **51%** of respondents were able to stay with their carers after turning 18 years

The others had to find alternate accommodation

Where live immediately after Leaving Care (49%)



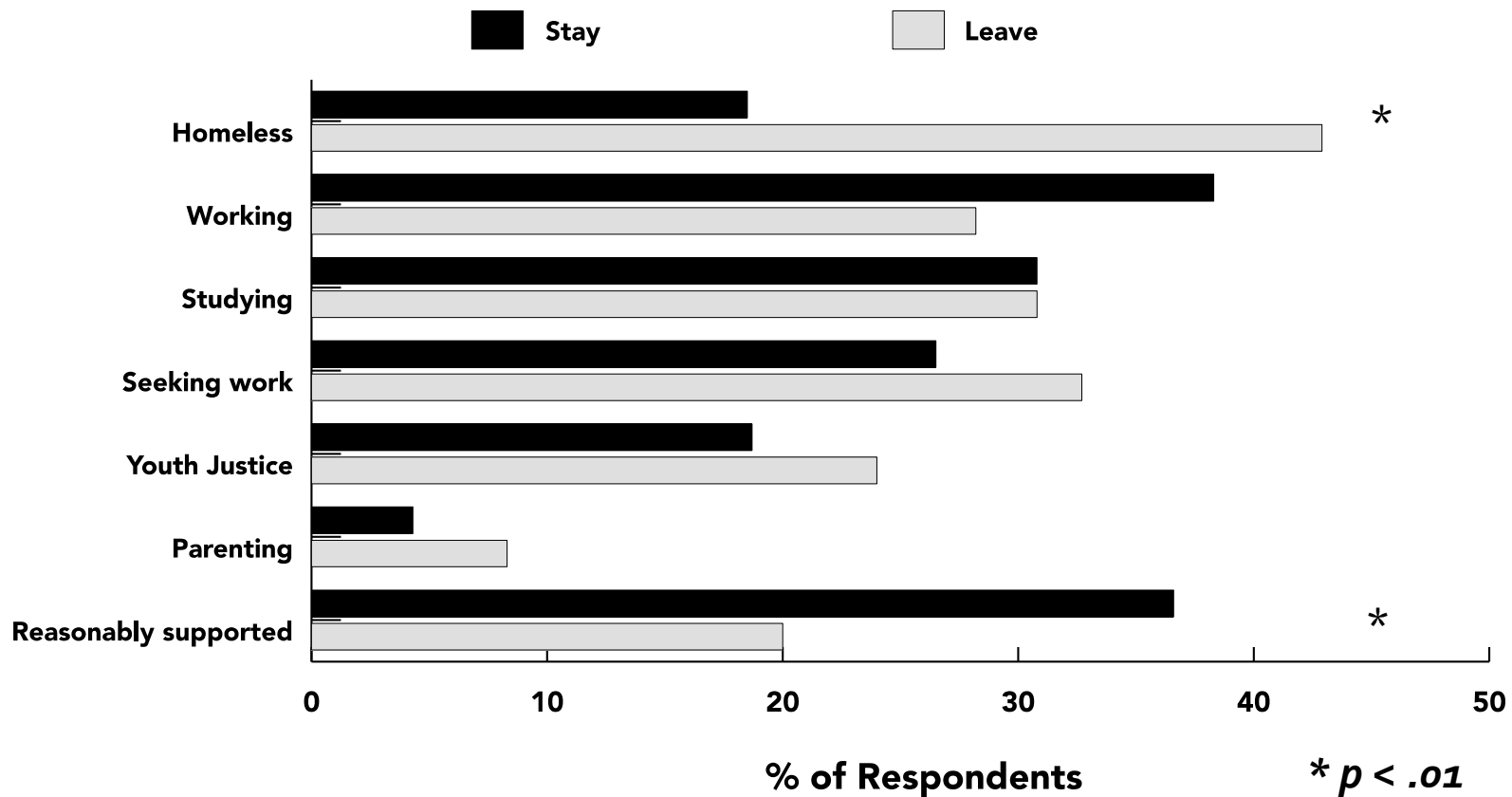
Accommodation after leaving care



Comparison of Outcomes: Stay vs. Leave

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Outcomes after turning 18 years



South Australian Consultation

(Thanks to Department for Child Protection SA for their cooperation and permission to discuss these preliminary data.)

South Australian Consultation

Demographics

Sex	N	Age	N	Culture	N	Disability	N
Female	15	15	7	Aboriginal	7	Yes	6
Male	9	16	5	Anglo-Australian	16	No	18
Non-Binary	1	17	7	Maori	2	Prefer not to say	1
		18	4				
		19	2				
Total	25		25		25		25

South Australian Consultation



Current Placement	Number
Foster Care	6
Kinship Care	8
Permanent Care	2
Residential	3
Independent	6
Total	25

Who has spoken with you about what will happen in your placement when you turn 18 years?

Source of Information	Number
No One	7
Caseworker	12
Foster Carer	6
Kinship Carer	4
Friends	2
Other	3

Where are you planning to live after orders cease when you turn 18 years?

Location	Number	%
Foster Carer	3	12.0
Kinship Carer	3	12.0
Residential	1	4.0
Relatives	1	4.0
Partner	3	12.0
Friends	1	4.0
Renting (Alone)	3	12.0
Renting (Shared)	1	4.0
Public Housing	1	4.0
Unsure	8	32.0
Total	25	



Carers



Kith & Kin



Independent



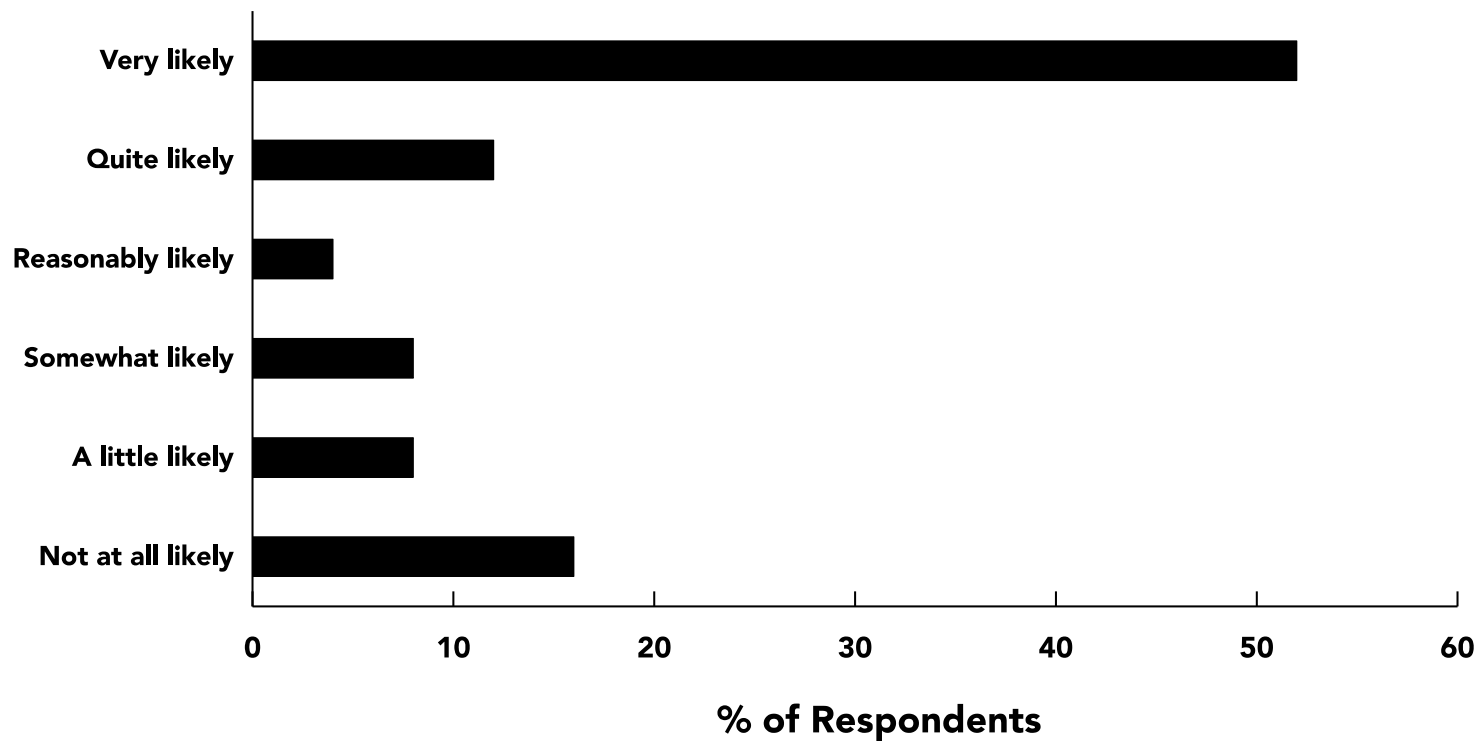
How confident do you feel now about having the life skills you need to live independently?

Confidence	Number	%
Quite Confident	9	36.0
Some Confidence	10	40.0
Little Confidence	5	20.0
Other	1	4.0

If you could stay with your current carer after you turn 18, how likely would you be to take that option?



Stay with current carer: Rating



Why would you take this option?



Stay

Reason	Number	%*
Safe / Stable	7	33.3
Family	5	23.8
Need extra support	3	14.3
Financial	2	9.5

- Respondents gave 21 reasons. Those that two or more mentioned are listed.

Leave

Desired independence	1
Conflict	1

"Because I know they can help me when needed. Also they have cared for me basically my whole life, and I know that I can rely on having a place to stay when here." (Female, 16 years)

"Stability that it provides me at the moment and having that family dynamic." (Male, 17 years)

"Because she's mum to me, its home, and I feel very safe there."
(Female, 17 years)

"Financial reasons. Being able to have enough money to move out and live." (Male, 15 years)

What do you think would be good about staying with your current carer?

Advantages of Staying	Number	%*
Receive extra support (general)	6	24.0
Safety / Stability	4	16.0
Financial support	4	16.0
Educational support	3	12.0
Develop extra skills	3	12.0

- Percentages based on $n = 25$.



"I think that being able to finish my studies and save a little bit of money, I would have financial stability to move out. Extra skills that I would learn." (Female, 17 years)

"She's always been there for me and never let me down. She loves and cares for me. She's my nan, so why wouldn't I?" (Male, 15 years)

"Because I know I can rely on having a safe and caring place to stay, and I know I can trust the people I'm living with at the moment. I know the people I'm living with at the moment would also have me again, as long as things are going to plan." (Female, 16 years)

"Everything. I am going trade school; I have a car that my foster carers bought for me. This is my family." (Male, 17 years)

What do you think would be challenging about staying with your current carer?

Challenge	Number
Rules	3
Pay rent / board	3
Conflict	2
Not independent	2

"A lot of rules and not enough freedom." (Non-binary, 16 years)

"Possibly paying board, depending on how much they would like me to pay." (Female, 16 years)

"I think being an adult and still having the rules of a child would be challenging." (Female, 17 years)

"Not getting along." (Male, 18 years)

Support to deal with challenges?



"My case worker. She helps me with all my struggles and if I have any questions. Having a good relationship with her also helps."

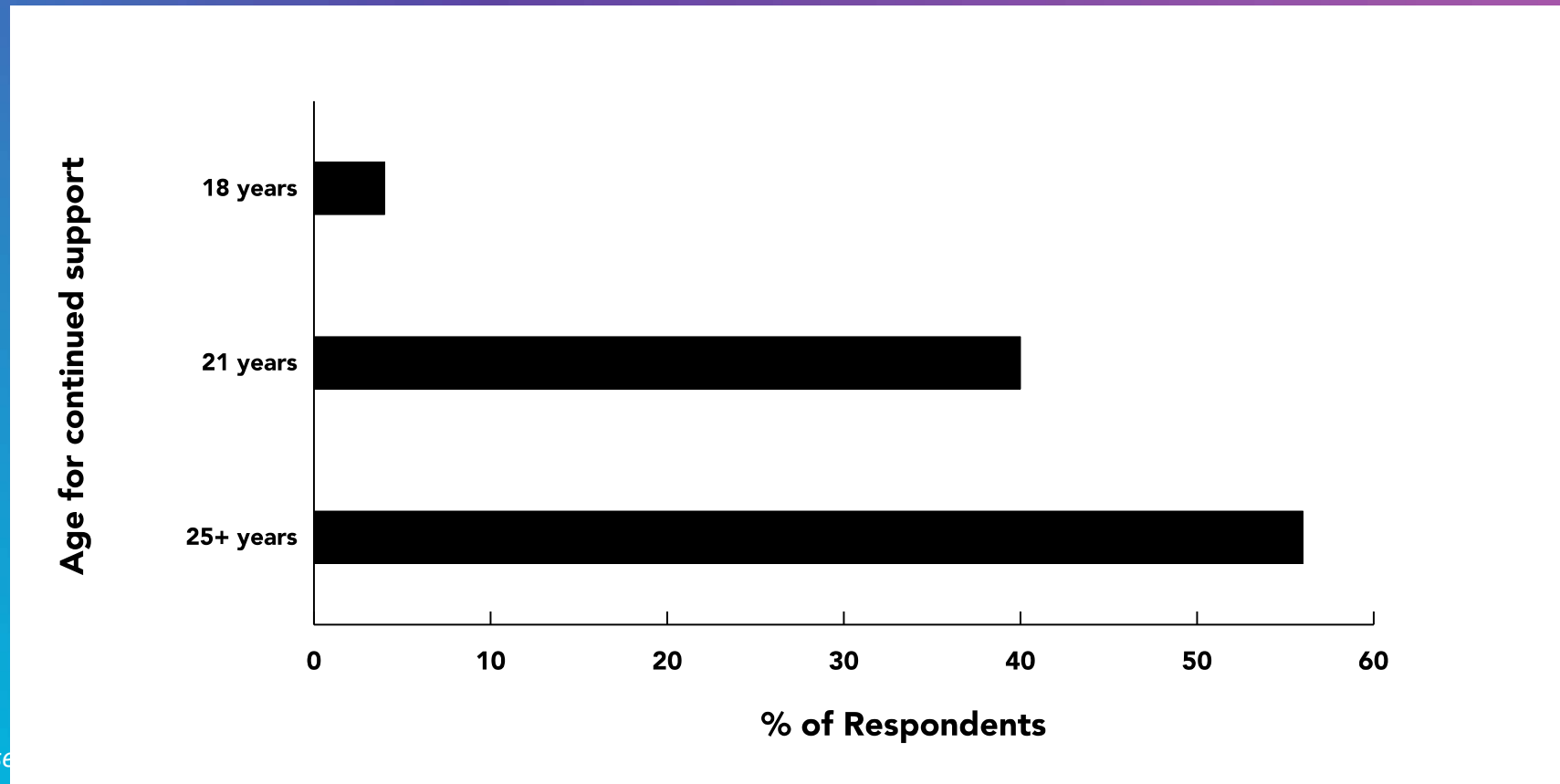
(Female, 17 years)

"Outside support. I had eight social workers and was not confident with any of them." (Male, 18 years)

"A proper transition plan and support once transitioned." (Female, 19 years)

"Getting a job and being able to afford stuff and to pay rent." (Male, 15 years)

To what age do you think support should be provided for remaining with a carer?



How likely do you think it would be that you would be able to achieve the following outcomes?

- a) By the time you turn 18 years;
- b) By the time you turn 20 years.

Likelihood of Achievement: Mean Ratings



Outcome	By 18 years	By 21 years	Overall Mean	N
Finish high school	4.9	5.9	5.4	17
Enrol in further studies	2.8	3.8	3.3	20
Apprenticeship	3.7	3.8	3.8	18
Part-time work	4.3	5.5	4.9	16
Full-time work	3.3	3.6	3.5	15
Find partner	4.5	5.0	4.8	18
Apply for Housing	3.3	4.2	3.8	17
Overall Mean	3.8	4.6		

(Scale: 1: Not at all likely; 6: Very likely)

How helpful do you think it would be, if you have left the care system, to be able to return after turning 18?

- 84% reported that this would be at least *Quite Helpful*

Final comments:

"I think that it is good that people are getting that support until 21. It is normalising. It's because there are so many people who live with their parents and can stay with them and receive that support. It is better so that they are not left to their own devices when they're 18." (Female, 17 years)

"I feel like some kids are on the journey of their own life and it may take some longer to work it out or feel comfortable, so be able to have support for 21 would very helpful." (Male, 15 years)

Remaining
until age 38
might be
extreme...

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“Male, 38, still living with his parents.
They asked us to keep him overnight,
so they could change the locks.”

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... but
giving the
option of
staying to
21 should
be easy.

retch Symposium, Sydney, 28 August 2019



Thank you

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