

Acknowledgements

In collaborative projects such as this it is difficult to acknowledge the efforts of all those who were involved in the final product. We would like to thank all those who assisted us with this project for their time and effort on our behalf. In particular, the authors gratefully acknowledge the assistance of:

- Marlene Burchill (Senior Research Officer) – Marlene is a Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Werong woman. She played a key role in: liaising with contacts in each state or territory; arranging interviews and focus groups and travel plans; and assisting with data collection in four states. Her contacts at a national level enabled her to collect the data over a period of five weeks. Without her ability to make contacts, develop rapport, and effectively liaise with key stakeholders, this mammoth task would have been a near impossibility.
- Ellen Fish, Australian Institute of Family Studies – for proof reading and editing this report.
- Alexandra Osborn and Stacey Panozzo (Research Assistants) – for assisting with coding of themes from the interviews.
- Each state/territory department – for providing key contacts to participate in the stakeholder consultations, and for the willingness of departmental staff to give of their valuable time for this project.
- Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) and each of the Aboriginal Child Care Agencies (AICCAs) and Aboriginal child welfare agencies that participated in group consultations and interviews.
- Dr Anne Graham – for pilot-testing and suggesting some revisions to the questions for young people with a group of young people who have already consented to participate in research activities and are part of a reference group for the Centre for Children and Young People, Southern Cross University (NSW)
- Other state/territory peak bodies, agencies and individuals who participated in the organisational consultations (for a full listing of stakeholders see Appendix A)
- Finally, special thanks go to Ms Jane Brazier, Director General, West Australian Department of Community Development (WA DCD) and Dr Robin Sullivan, Director General, Queensland Department of Child Safety (Qld DCS), for agreeing to facilitate focus groups with carers and young people in their jurisdictions. In particular, our thanks for the considerable time and energy put

into the logistics of the arrangements go to Joann Schmider and Bettina Rosser (Qld DCS), Monique Blom and Ross Councillor (WA DCD), Shaun Mays (CREATE Foundation, WA) and Fay Alford (AFCA, WA).