



Ms Carmel Donnelly PSM
The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW (IPART)
PO Box K35, H
Haymarket Post Shop
HAYMARKET NSW 1240

Via email: carmel.donnelly@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Donnelly,

DCJ submission on the Interim report into OOHC costs and pricing

I would like to thank the IPART for delivering the interim report into out-of-home care (OOHC) costs and pricing and for the positive and collaborative manner in which your team have engaged with DCJ staff and the broader sector. The report provides some important preliminary insights.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. The interim findings have been incredibly helpful and we look forward to seeing the final analysis on these, through the finalisation of the review.

DCJ is currently developing a reform strategy for OOHC. The interim findings and final report will serve as an important input into the development of this strategy. Of particular interest are the interim findings that help us understand the different cost and price drivers behind both DCJ and NGO delivered OOHC, such as the variation and comparability of child related need assessments, average caseworker caseloads and the drivers of service cost differences between DCJ and NGOs in delivering OOHC.

I am also grateful for the insights provided regarding the financial issues impacting carers.

We look forward to understanding these issues in further detail and will provide a formal response once the draft report has been finalised in February 2025.

The NSW Government is determined to provide an efficient and sustainable OOHC system that provides quality care and positive outcomes for children and young people.

If you would like to discuss this feedback, or if you would like more information, please contact Stuart Malcher, Executive Director Child and Family on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Michael Tidball
Secretary

29 October 2024