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Your submission for this review:

My husband and I are long term foster carers for the past 8 years. This review is very welcomed to this unfortunate industry. Being a foster carer is a 24/7 voluntary gig. I dont think there has been a year where the funds allocated for the carers hasnt gone into the red. The complexity of the childrens needs, mean one of the household cannot hold down a job due to the demands of supporting the children which impacts our family financially and emotionally. We love our foster children like they were our own and we built a bigger house under our own steam and added a bigger mortgage to accommodate and keep siblings together. The amount of support for carers and agencies is far from being sufficient to support the basic and complexed needs of the children. I have noticed a shortage of people putting their hands up to be foster carers and I believe if there was a considerable increase in the financial support carers received to support the high needs of traumatised children there would be no need for carers to face financial stress, emotional stress and isolation stress and they in turn could focus on providing long term care for the children. I consider the role of the carer to be overlooked by everyone in this system and it shows in how they are treated even down to suffering the increase of living costs without one thought of how it effects foster households. I for one have not been able to afford a simple coffee down the street as a treat because most of our own funds now go to topping up the funds needed to keep our foster children in shoes, cloths and food. ils time that the foster system recognises that without a carer to be there 24 hours a day the foster system does not exist and pay them accordingly. The hardest working people you will ever know are foster carers to traumatised children who by no choice of there own are in a loving home providing them with the tools for a better future. Please give us a voice. Caroline