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Your submission for this review:

My husband and I have been foster carers for the past 15 years. We have had the same sibling group of 4 since we started. In that time, we have watched the agencies get larger and our financial allowance for the children reduce considerably. This is justified by the agency as a "change" in funding levels by DCJ have allowed them to make their own allowance guidelines. On top of that, they are no longer covering any additional costs for the children such as glasses, Psychologist, pediatrician, tutoring and we have been told they will cease to cover our children's private schools. The 4 or more sibling allowance of \$24K per year that is currently provided for carers of large sibling groups to pay for respite in the form of a nanny, is now being absorbed into the agencies budget and some of the planned respite is being refused without explanation. The agencies are not providing the carers with useful support, but are just getting their own boxes ticked that are required by the OCG. Case managers are transient and often useless as they have no ability to make any decisions and often it can take weeks or months to hear the outcome if your lucky enough to get one. My opinion, the agencies should be abolished as most of the funding is taken up on useless box ticking and multi level management, and very little trickles down to the children and carers who are doing the hard yards every day. Guardianship should be a quicker and easier process for long term carers who have proven they meet the requirements. DCJ should go back to case management and simplify the process. Carers should be given a higher payment to meet the needs of the children for specialist services and be required to provide a monthly report on each child to show this is happening and that their needs have been addressed. Please fix this broken system for the sake of the children coming into it and the carers who can't get out of it because they love the children in their care. We beg you to fix it