

Author name: Name suppressed

Date of submission: Wednesday, 12 June 2024

Your submission for this review:

Is the current carer allowance you receive for each child in your care sufficient to cover the day-to-day costs of caring for that child? If it is not, what types of things do you typically spend more (of your own money) on? I do not believe the current allowance is adequate for day-to-day care of children in OOHC. I am a kinship carer of an 11yr old aboriginal boy. Most of my personal funds have been spent on Resources for learning (child is a few grades behind and has severe dyslexia) Additional tutoring Camp/School excursions Cultural events and activities Fidgets and other items to help with sensory and ADHD Ubers to appointments for child (I dont drive) Bed, bed Linen, clothes when child first came into care with me School uniforms and school supplies Sport to ensure child is healthy and has social engagement outside of school Swimming lessons Dental visits child is not eligible for the Medicare dental benefits scheme (this is wrong on so many levels and should be looked into as a matter of urgency) Before/After School care fees. It was only because of a conversation with the director of the childcare that I advised that the child was in OOHC and was told that I shouldnt be paying anything for childcare as it was funded under CCS and ACCS. Before you think about the government help I am not eligible for Centrelink payments, so I do not get any of the added bonus things such as active kids voucher etc. How often do you need additional financial support from your agency on top of your usual carer allowance? How easy is it to access additional financial support? I was told by DCJ that I could not ask for any additional financial support and anything I needed to pay needed to come from the allowance or out of my own pocket. This was after being told that I should be claiming Family Tax benefit from Centrelink, which I am not eligible for.