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Your submission for this review:

The foster care allowance, even at the care +2 level is barely enough. At care +2 I was expected to give up work to manage and be at the many, many therapy appointments as well as the homework that is linked. With interest rates rising, and other costs of living rising, things are very tight. There has been talk about making the care allowance an income, not benefit. This would make foster care impossible for me. Being income would mean that I lose the disability pension for the foster child, meaning that the only incoming funds would be the foster care allowance, meaning I could no longer foster. Additional funds for (or in house) therapy for all members of the house would be incredibly beneficial for all. A change in respite would be amazing also. In QLD the respite arrangements are much more flexible, allowing care for the child/ren in their home which gives many children more consistency and would be 10x better for those with disability needs. In 5 years we have never had respite for my foster child, due to all of her disability resources and equipment are in the home, and not available elsewhere. Having an annual amount for respite for babysitters or similar, would have been the most appropriate option for me and my foster child. She wouldn't have handled a weekend or more away from the only home she's known, with a stranger, but having a babysitter come in to the home would have 1. Been more natural and organic and like her peers, and 2. Would have supported me and my needs more than a week or so off here and there.