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Your submission for this review:

Carers receive an allowance for each child in their care. Depending on the child it is usually not enough. The main cost for the children I care for is medication. Also petrol getting children to medical appointments and sports and being in a rural area, having to get them to hospital and medical appointments. As the NGO'S have no Carers available to do respite, I also have to pay to bring the kids away if I need to travel to see relatives or if ever I would like to holiday. I have not had a break in years or had a holiday. I asked my NGO to help with petrol expenses to take the kids to the paediatrician and they flatly refused. I am currently driving 1000kms per week and that is the honest truth, I have had 3 second hand fridges break in 4 months and I can't afford another one. I now have an Esky with \$5 bags of ice. The cost of living going so far up has not been recognised by the Government for Foster Carers trying so hard to just make ends meet and take the best care they can of these kids who desperately need help. Carers are leaving in their droves because, let's face it, we honestly can't live like this anymore. No proper financial assistance, no break or respite and nobody to listen. We are promised all the time for help but nothing is ever done. The NGOs make more money, thousands of dollars per child, a Carer for a 0-4 year old gets \$250 per week! That's hilarious! Really! I adopted my son from OOHC and DCJ make me jump through hoops to get the adoption allowance. When the case went to the Supreme Court, the judge said that I didn't get enough money to support him. So the Supreme Court realises that the payments are pathetic, yet still he didn't do anything about it! Unreal. Will you listen now? Are you actually going to do something to repair this broken system? There should be a Federal Enquiry into the Foster Care system and it should be partially governed by experienced Foster Carers. Carers who know what's going on and who aren't afraid to say. Thanks