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Your submission for this review:

I write as a foster carer, on the cost of raising a child who is under the Minister. I have had to give up most of my work to be available for my foster child when she refuses to go to school, when she is unwell (physical or mental health problems) or when she needs to go to specialist doctor's appointments in or outside of school hours. I am a solo carer, so my constant availability is heavily subsidised by various CentreLink allowances, costing the government in addition to the foster carer allowance (which itself works out at \$1.89 an hour for the constant care of a child with insomnia, [REDACTED] PTSD, Anxiety, developmental trauma and no NDIS. I pay for music lessons, swimming lessons, [REDACTED] therapy, specialist appointments, petrol, rent, school uniforms, food, her therapy dog costs, clothing, medicines with this allowance. Most carers I know are not in a position to pay for the extra curricular or extra medical or psycho-social appointments, so these foster children leave the system at 18 with a fridge, some driving lessons, and have never had a chance to realise their full potential. They end up costing the government more in living on the dole or in jail due to having missed crucial therapies which were not paid for by their agencies (my agency only pays for 1 in 4 of our weekly [REDACTED] therapy costs). I have had to be very strategic to gain free counselling for my child and myself through Victim's Services (another cost to the government). I know many carers are less engaged (or have fewer resources) than me. My child is [REDACTED] and still cannot stand on one foot while dressing herself, since we have not been able to access sufficient OT support for her. We have many times received reports containing recommendations which our agency have not followed through on, and I have limited energy, time and resources to do everything that should probably be done by a caseworker, in addition to caring for a high needs child.