Author name: Name suppressed

Date of submission: Tuesday, 5 March 2024

## Your submission for this review:

I have been an Out of Home Carer for 10 years. During that time, I have witnessed many changes in the provisions needed for the children and youth in my care. Our \$33.00 per day is supposed to cover all the requirements of the child listed below but barely does. 1 Food 2 Clothing 3 Medical needs 4 Educational needs 5 Recreation - Organised Sport and Groups, Music Lessons 6 Shoes - Sporting, school, everyday 7 Holidays 8 Outings - Movies, Zoos, Pools, Arcade activities 9 Water and Electricity 10 Phone and Internet 11 Provide travel to friends/birthdays and recreational activities. As is always quoted by the Government and media, cost of living is at an all-time high and like everyone else, carers are suffering this plight too. We want the kids who are already traumatised by their removal from their families to have some sort of normality in a caring environment. Treats for our family are becoming few and far between. When a takeaway meal can cost upwards of \$60.00 we opt to go without as we struggle to provide the essential needs for the children in our care. Please find in favour of an increase in allowance to help improve the burden on carers and therefore, the children in the Care of the Minister.