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Date of submission: Tuesday, 11 June 2024

Your submission for this review:

There are significant material costs associated with children in out-of-home care. For instance, clothing, bedding, furniture, groceries, electricity and water bills. However, I would say the greater cost is in foregoing paid employment. When a child enters out-of-home care their needs are so significant that it makes continuing paid employment a real challenge. Further to that, it is more important that children are able to bond and build trust with their carers, as this is likely the most important step towards their recovery from trauma. My partner and I have fostered two newborn infants on separate occasions and at neither point could we afford to forego employment. This meant that both of us were working part-time whilst getting up to babies multiple times throughout the night. The strain of this (on our health, jobs and overall wellbeing) has meant that we are no longer prepared to care for young children. It seems crazy to me that foster carers should be put in this position without having access to maternity leave (or a similar scheme). We currently have two young children in our care (4 and 2 years) and we are not accepting further placements. This is for a number of reasons but primarily because we cannot afford to forego paid employment and superannuation payments.