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Your submission for this review:

I have been a single carer of 2 children for 6 years. The children are now aged 13 and 15, and so are much more independent than when they first came to live with me. The aspects of costs in my personal situation, is that I would have preferred often to have had the option to have home tasks covered (especially managing my yard and other adhoc house repairs (minor)) than the overnight respite care allocation. When the children were younger, I just found it incredibly hard to find the time to do the lawns etc...and would often in the busyness of managing the children, my part-time job, and other house related duties, would wish to have had some house help. This would have given me more time to just be with the children and not always be doing 'jobs' to look after the home space. With the overnight respite care allocation - whilst it is generous - the challenges of finding suitable nights that would work with the children's schedules and the respite carers, and the children often not wanting to go, meant that what was supposed to give me some 'break' actually became counter-productive. On the occasions they went on overnights - I would work like crazy catching up on all the house jobs that had been increasingly overlooked. We have now found that the children like a camp which they attend for 6 nights a year and that is my only 'official' respite. I understand every home is different, but options on how to use allocated 'respite' monies would have been appreciated. My other point is on finances to support the children thrive in activities they succeed in - ie sport. I currently spend approximately \$4000+ a year on rep sport and activities and get \$1000 covered by the agency allocation...even though this is the children's natural spot to succeed. It would be good if more consideration went into supporting hobbies and other skills not just 'academics'.