

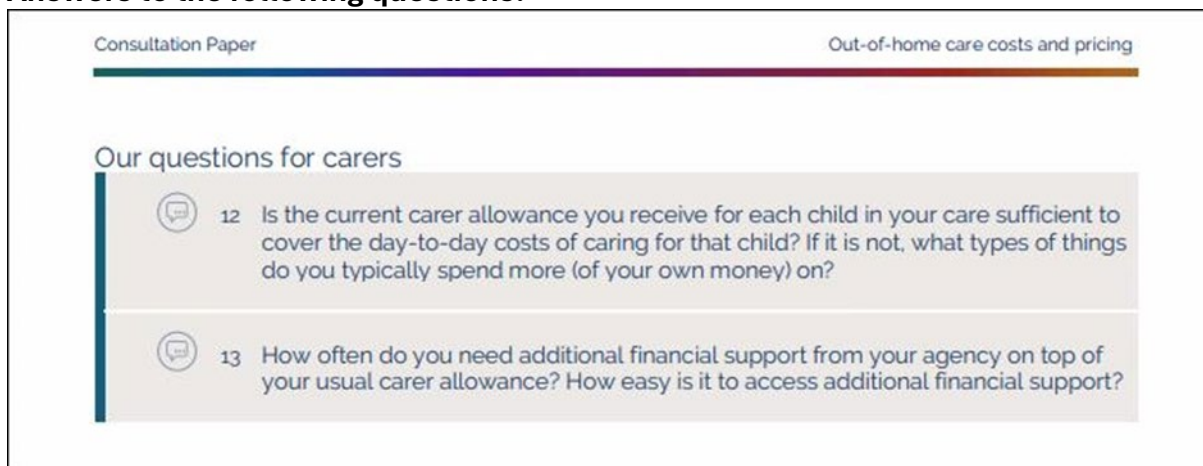
I am currently a registered carer with [REDACTED] and provide planned and emergency respite care to children ages 0 – teenagers, while waiting on the permanent placement of a child (ages 0-4).

I currently provide respite to 2 families on an ongoing basis and therefore would like to provide my feedback based on them.

- The first respite I provide is once a month for a 2.5 yrs old girl. She is dropped off into my care on Friday afternoon (between 4- 5pm) and I return her back home on a Sunday afternoon (between 4- 5pm). For that whole weekend I get paid \$94.
- The second respite I provide is once every 6 weeks for an 8 yrs old boy. He is dropped off into my care on Friday afternoon (between 4- 5pm) and I return him back home on a Sunday afternoon (between 4- 5pm). For that whole weekend I get paid exactly \$90.

I am unsure why there is a difference of an additional \$4 for the 2yr old as there is nothing that you can buy a 2yr old that costs \$4. However I would like to provide answers to the following questions.

#### Answers to the following questions:



The screenshot shows a document titled "Consultation Paper" with the subtitle "Out-of-home care costs and pricing". Under the heading "Our questions for carers", there are two numbered questions:

12 Is the current carer allowance you receive for each child in your care sufficient to cover the day-to-day costs of caring for that child? If it is not, what types of things do you typically spend more (of your own money) on?

13 How often do you need additional financial support from your agency on top of your usual carer allowance? How easy is it to access additional financial support?

#### 12.

**For the 2yr old:** If I already have nappies, wipes, shampoo/conditioner and baby clothes, the amount of \$90 solely goes to buying the necessary groceries that I would need to feed the little one as some kids are fussy and so you need to cater to their eating needs, such as particular fruits and vegetables, *foods that don't cause them allergies/harm, certain time of milk (full cream or skim) etc.*

If I did not have these essentials for the weekend that the little one was over, the total of \$90 would not be sufficient to cover groceries plus the essentials.

Over time, as I have provided respite for this child for over a year now, I have also had to make purchases as she grows up for suitable **\*\*baby clothes (from baby to toddler), shoes and socks bottles, dummies, sippy cups, toddler utensils and cutlery, bath stuff, books, educational and non-educational toys,**

*\*\*these are not always provided by the full time care and/or they forget and so you at times need to head to the shops and get a couple of items suitable for the weekend (e.g a jacket and suitable shoes if its winter).*

Emergency medicine or even kids Panadol is never reimbursed by the agency and is said to be covered under the allowance of \$90.

However, I believe carers should be able to have medicine costs reimbursed to them, separate to the allowance provided to them.

**For the 8yr old:** The \$90 solely goes to buying the necessary groceries that I would need to feed him and avoid any food allergies.

After the grocery shopping there isn't much money left over if I wanted to do take him out to the zoo, time zone, museum, swimming and on the weekends that we do these other activities, I am paying much more out of my own pockets for the ticket/s for entry, games and food to eat out. To put it into context, we do not do this often and enjoy many free activities but even educational kids activities such as going to museums and the zoo is expensive and these expenses can never be covered with just \$90 over a weekend.

the \$90 for a 48 hrs window is not enough to take care of an 8 year old, if you are further required to buy extra items (after grocery shopping) such as toiletries, spare clothing, a toy,

Again, emergency medicine or even kids Panadol is never reimbursed by the agency and is said to be covered under the allowance of \$90. However, I believe carers should be able to have medicine costs reimbursed to them, separate to the allowance provided to them.

**13.**

I have never had to ask for additional financial support as yet.

Thank you for taking the time to read my feedback.

