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Your submission for this review:

The current rate of carer allowance doesn't adequately support the child due to the rising cost associated especially food, clothing, extra curricular activities and electricity/gas. At a pitiful \$40 a day (approximately) the allowance barely covers the day to day needs and if your child has extra needs and medications eg pull-ups beyond toilet training age then it can be difficult to make that money stretch. Not all medications are covered by the pbs and can be quite costly. As a carer that lives in a rural/regional area that requires long distance travel for medical and family visits, the costs quickly add up especially the wear and tear on your car etc Although DCJ do support in some areas the common excuse for not being able to meet the child's or carer's needs is often based on financial reasons. There is a definite lack of funding to best support the carer so they can best support the child. No child should miss out on seeking essential services like psychology due to a funding issue. Carers should also be able to access basic services like respite specially when dealing with high needs children. There should also be more funding to support carers mental health and better training especially for those that live in a rural or regional area. I feel carers are most disadvantaged in these areas as the cost to travel is greater and the services are less available. DCJ need to fund carers better so that kids stop ending up in residential homes where the cost per child is at least 10x more costly than it would have been if the carer and child were better financially supported. \$568 to carer for a child between 5-13yo is so inadequate that many can't afford to foster as most of these kids are so high needs due to trauma and other disabilities that most either have to work part time or quit altogether. If you're a single carer such as myself then the cost of supporting these kids and the allowance provided just don't meet anyone's needs sufficiently.