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Your submission for this review:

- The carer allowances for DCJ carers and agency carers needs to be the same across the board. Currently, DCJ carers are paid lower than agency carers. This has impacted carers going for guardianship at an agency as once guardianship is granted, the carer allowance resorts to a DCJ carer allowance amount which is less than what they are paid by an agency. - Carer allowances need to be increased to be more in line with the cost of living. Currently, carer allowances are not sufficient enough when there is an expectation that medical costs and educational costs at a minimum are expected to come out of the carer allowance. School excursions are becoming more expensive, some more than \$600, which is a lot to expect a carer to pay out of the carer allowance. - MORE resources NEED to be allocated for carer recruitment, carer training and a qualified carer support team, especially for DCJ. If there were designated carer support teams in EACH DISTRICT for DCJ, this would likely decrease the number of children and young people in ACA/IPA/ICM placements which is costing the Department millions, if not billions of dollars each year. - ALL agencies/service providers MUST be on the same pricing levels. This allows transparency when it comes to costings. - ACA/IPA/ICM placements should have a CLEAR list of what is paid for by the agency, what is not paid for by the agency and whether there is a budget for each item covered. This allows transparency in costing/pricing, especially across different districts and different agencies. - There are children in ACA/IPA/ICM placements that are not placed within the DCJ district where the caseworker is located. This means the caseworkers are expected to travel more than 1 - 2 hours EACH WAY to see a child or young person which in turns adds extra costings such a fuel, caseworker salary etc. In these cases, children and young people in these placements should be transferred to the local DCJ office which support the child appropriately.