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Your submission for this review:

The current carer allowance is a significant barrier to the recruitment and retention of foster carers. This particularly impacts the availability of short term and long term foster carers, which has further impacts on the permanency needs of children and young people in out of home care. Given the increased demand of dual income households due to the ongoing cost of living crisis, there is a lack of time and resources available to be given to caring roles. Women historically have been allocated caring roles per gender constructs in Australia and the uptake of becoming a long term foster carer could mean the sacrifice of an income (carer allowances covers the child in your care - not your income) and it also means the sacrifice of any superannuation. It could be argued that the current carer allowance does not accurately compensate the role or reflect the intensity of time, skills and commitment required to provide care for children and young people who have experienced significant trauma. With current trends, it could be argued that the current allowance regards foster care as a unseen or unpaid work, something which is consistent with the long held views of household and domestic labour associated with caring. It could be further argued that the expectation of people to be able to provide full time care on the current allowance exacerbates the gender pay gap.