Author name: Name suppressed

Date of submission: Monday, 4 March 2024

Your submission for this review:

As a stakeholder deeply invested in the welfare of children and youth in out of home care, I advocate for an expanded scope of the review to address critical issues surrounding the timeliness of reimbursement and upfront costs incurred by foster carers, including expenses such as Medicare payments due to child not being linked to carers cards. Extension of Scope: 1. Timeliness of Reimbursement: Foster carers often encounter challenges in promptly receiving reimbursements for essential expenses incurred in providing care for children in out of home care. Delays in reimbursement, particularly concerning expenses like medical costs covered by Medicare and specialist fees, can impose financial strain on foster families and deter potential carers from offering their homes. Conclusion: In conclusion, I urge IPART to expand the scope of the review to encompass the timeliness of reimbursement and upfront costs faced by foster carers. Addressing these issues is crucial for improving the financial sustainability of the out of home care system and ensuring the well-being of vulnerable children and youth.