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Your submission for this review:

I have been a foster parent since 1999, and have always raised these children as a single parent. My foster children have all been under three years of age at the commencement of their placement. Given their already disrupted lives, I believe strongly in being a stay-at-home parent during the 0-3 years period, as this consistency fosters good attachment, improved learning outcomes, and a better parenting experience overall. As such, paid employment is prohibited due to logistics. The carer allowance barely covers basic needs for a child. For example, I currently have a 3 week old baby in my care. Each week she uses \$30 of nappies, \$28 in formula alone. On top of that I have had to buy her clothes and a baby sling, costing me in excess of \$250 just to cover her initial needs (a bonds onesie is \$29). This doesn't address the cost of setting up a nursery or bedroom for a child, which cost me around \$2000. The pram was \$500 used!! If the Government truly values the role of foster parents, we would be remunerated to reflect the single parent pension (or at least be eligible to claim it). At the current rate I provide 24hr care for a drug withdrawing infant at the grand rate of \$1.66 per hour. There are many children requiring foster care but I know of many people who had shown interest initially but then turned away when they realised that it actually costs us to foster (the carer payment doesn't cover all costs especially for a child with illness or special needs). I implore you to increase the rate of remuneration for foster care providers.