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Your submission for this review:

As a carer in OOHC, as well as a professional within the health sector, I am concerned about the allowances paid to registered carers and the impact of these rates on vulnerable children. Children in OOHC often come with a plethora of additional needs, including physical, social and psychological needs. The current rates do not allow carers to adequately meet these needs without sacrificing other parts of their lives, something volunteers should not be required to do. The current allowance does not ensure young people are provided with the same resources as their peers, such as recreational/sporting activities, clothing, holidays and educational resources. As a carer I have taken young people into my home very shortly before big events such as Christmas or birthdays. They have arrived with very little in the way of clothing that is both suitable and fitting or personal possessions. Transition times are already difficult for both carers and children, to add to this burden by requiring the spending of money which may not be available makes them harder. Children in care often have behavioural issues which result in damage to carer property, something which isn't accounted for in current reimbursements. As a working carer (I could not be a carer without working for financial reasons) I am often required to take leave from work due to a huge number of appointments (often some distance from our rural location), agency meetings, school refusal/suspensions and family contact. This unpaid time away from the workplace adds to the financial burden of caring. I would like to see the carer reimbursements take into account: child complexity, location (rural and remote), social, medical and psychological needs of children. It should account for birthdays, Christmas and family holidays. All of which are considered normal for children not in care. Children should not be seen as different, their lives are tough enough. The cycle of neglect should not continue in care.