

Author name: Name suppressed

Date of submission: Sunday, 9 June 2024

Your submission for this review:

I am single, and I have been grandparent carer for my two grandchildren for almost 6 years. They came to me at ages 2.5y and 2m and i had to give up working that day. We now survive on government bursaries. I recieve a stipend from DCJ and FTB part a and b. As well as bringing up the children, I have a mortgage and prior debts to service, and I cannot add to my super. I cannot work school hours in my previous career as it is heavily afternoon and night shift work. Recently I managed to secure a fully funded position to study at Cert. IV level in a new occupation to attempt to somewhat remedy this situation, but I also carry some health issues and can't afford health insurance, so I may not get the chance to work in my new field. I have weeks and months where I can't afford my own medication (not everything is subsidised). I purchase groceries carefully, and I am a fair cook, who knows how to grow my own fruit and vegetables, and to budget. I buy second hand clothes for the children and I, and second hand shoes for myself. Toys are also second hand, and even modest holidays are a fantasy. I am afraid to service my car, and I drive carefully to save my tires, though my aging parents also need my assistance and live almost 200km away. After school activities are but a dream. I spend many nights awake worrying about money. I would be incredibly better off financially if I could go back to the work I was trained for but there is nobody to share the load and I would never give up my grandchildren. I know that I am saving the department money, but that leaves a bitter taste when we have been left in such a position. Thank you for reading my submission.