

Author name: R. Smallwood

Date of submission: Thursday, 30 May 2024

Your submission for this review:

More support for KINSHIP/RELATIVE carers as we are currently the LARGEST GROUP of carers for children in NSW OOHC - and its currently growing significantly every year. We know that the best outcome for children is with KINSHIP carers and this has been proven - so its time to look after and support KINSHIP CARERS with practically support not just monetary. Over 60% of KINSHIP carers in NSW are single women over the age of 50, that maybe working still to support themselves or even to the other end of the scale with little computer literacy so lets look at how to provide support at a ground level. Care for the CARER - 5 months I waited for financial assistance and only then after I had to BEG ! I have been able to instigate within my workplace the following clause which is now part of our parental leave policy soon to be part of our EBA it reads as follows - Formal Relative and Kinship Care leave 12 weeks full pay of 24 weeks half pay after a period of six months continuous employment regardless of carer status. We need to keep fighting for these children to and provide them with the best care possible, moving into the future it will be ALL about KINSHIP care as fosters carers disappear from the system in droves. Look at the current statics on KINSHIP as opposed to foster care, OOHC KINSHIP CARERS are now sitting around the 63% of ALL OOHC. So whatever support can be provided whether the KINSHIP CARER is formal or informal they need to be supported.