

From:
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Social Services (family Payment Structural REform and Participation Measures) Bill
Date: Thursday, 19 November 2015 6:45:44 PM

Dear Ms Stewart,

Can you pass on this submission please.

I am a 60 year old single grandmother who has full-time care(24/7) of a granddaughter age 9. I have had full parental responsibility of my granddaughter since she was 6 months old.

The Proposed Cuts to the FTB and FTA for me will put me in severe financial hardship. At present I am living from pension week to the next week.

I am paying a mortgage.

My granddaughter attends a small private school in the Northern Suburbs and has done for the last four years.

This school was recommended to me as a school that takes extra time and care to educate children that have Social problems, Health and Mental issues. My granddaughter is progressing very well. The cost of school fees per term at this school is not cheap. There are high costs involved. The FTB helps me to pay school fees. Yesterday I spoke to her school teacher and explained my granddaughter may not be able to stay at this school. The teacher's response was knowing my granddaughter's Health and Mental issues said and I will quote " she will be bullied and teased if she goes into the Public School system. " " She has too many issues which we at the school are helping her with step by step in her own time as well as being educated."

I rely on the family Tax Benefit Supplements for her to attend after school activities. I also pay for Maths Tuition every Saturday morning.

Being abandoned, this granddaughter comes with much emotional baggage left to me to manage and my top priority is to ensure she has a stable, loving environment in which to live.

I see progress in this 9 year old.

I know with all these cuts to the Social Welfare system my granddaughter will be extremely disadvantaged and I do not want to see her going backwards. These financial cuts will have a significant affect on the both of us.

I am also a member of a Grandparent Support group in the Northern Suburbs and I do know if this Bill is passed many, many grandcarer families will sink below the poverty line.

Thankyou for reading.

Kindest Regards