

From: _____
To: _____
Cc: _____
Subject: Further info following the Senate Committee hearing in Adelaide
Date: Monday, 10 November 2014 4:08:36 PM



Dear Carol

Please see below the information I promised to provide to the Committee regarding the base subsidies for foster carers in the various jurisdictions.

This is from the report to the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs from October 2013 'Professional Foster Care – barriers, opportunities and options' - by ACIL ALLEN Consulting. It provides on page 6 of the report the following table in relation to the base subsidy provided to foster carers – source https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/08_2014/professional_foster_care_final_report.pdf

'While there is some variance among jurisdictions in the legislation and delivery of OoHC, there is a degree of consistency around the provision of foster care. Foster care involves the provision of temporary care in the home of a volunteer carer who has received some form of training and assessment. Local accreditation processes are also required. Caregiver reimbursements paid by the state are available to offset the costs associated with caring for children and young people. There is considerable variation in the rates of caregiver reimbursements provided to foster carers. By way of example, Table 2 charts base weekly rates of caregiver reimbursements for foster carers. It also compares them to Foster Care Estimates (FCE) developed by the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales to provide an approximation of the costs associated with fostering a child or young person.

Table 2 - Base subsidy rates by age of child (weekly rates), by jurisdiction 2013

Child's age	TAS (\$)	WA (\$)	NT (\$)	SA (\$)	VIC (\$)	ACT (\$)	QLD (\$)	NSW (\$)	FCE (\$)
1 year of age	190	172	211	145	159	231	221	218	218
3 years of age	190	172	211	145	159	231	221	218	218
6 years of age	217	225	226	169	159	259	238	245	234
10 years of age	217	225	266	169	171	259	238	245	274
14 years of age	251	277	329	241	252	348	259	329	345/337

Source: McHugh, M 2013, 'Updating developments across Australian jurisdictions, New Directions in policy and planning for foster care in Australia.' Keynote Address. Centre for Excellence in Child & Family Welfare Inc. Victoria. Foster Care Futures 11 September'

* Please note that the Carer Payment Rates for South Australia, effective for 1 October 2013 – source <http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/CarerPaymentRatesandLoadi.pdf>

1 year old per week – 150.80
3 year old per week – 150.80
6 year old per week – 167.50
10 year old per week – 167.50
14 year old per week – 241.10
16/17 year old per wk – 326.20

Trust this will assist.

Kind regards

Albert



Albert Barelds, Executive Director

Child & Family Welfare Association SA Inc

47 King William Road, Unley SA 5061

P: +61 8 8305 4213 M: 0439 878 120

albert@childandfamily-sa.org.au

www.childandfamily-sa.org.au