

Hi there, my name is [Redacted], I am 29 years old and I have a 2 year old son name [Redacted]. When I was 12 weeks pregnant with my son, his father cut off contact with me and he decided not to contribute to raising our son. He does however pay child support, but compared to our actual living expenses, the financial support we receive from him is minimal. Trying to survive off the parenting payment and family tax benefits has been tough, when half of it goes towards my rent.

Currently, I am working part time, and I am studying part time, it is a juggling act, as my family also works full time and they can't offer much support in the way of looking after my son if he is sick, picking him up if i am late, helping me cook a meal when i simply just don't have time.

I guess the point I am raising is this, I proudly represent the single mum/dad who is doing their best under already difficult circumstances, I am in no way taking advantage of receiving a 'parenting payment', I am working really hard towards earning my own wage and leading by example for my son. The reality of being a single parent is that it is not always possible to make it all happen, even if you have the will. With increasing child care costs and lack of child care available. It also becomes very difficult to find an employer that is flexible in terms of letting you leave early here and there, letting you arrive late if things go wrong in the morning, giving you time off when your child is too unwell for school, not to mention arranging care for your child on school holidays.

Please, it is so important for single parents like myself, to have support from the government, I am doing my best to make things work, but I still need help.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]