

Grandcarers WA Position Paper

Subject

Requirement for a regular fortnightly payment for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

Background

There are many grandparents who have taken on the responsibility of raising their grandchildren due to various circumstances such as parental illness, addiction, or other unforeseen circumstances. These grandparents often face significant financial strain as they step in to provide a stable and loving home for their grandchildren. Many of them are on fixed incomes or have already retired, and the added cost of caring for their grandchildren can be overwhelming.

Position

Grandparents who are raising grandchildren deserve recognition for their selfless act of love and sacrifice. They are not only providing a safe and nurturing environment for their grandchildren, but they are also helping to prevent these children from entering the foster care system. Their dedication and commitment to their grandchildren's well-being should not go unnoticed.

Implementing a regular fortnightly payment for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren would provide them with much-needed financial support to cover the additional expenses associated with caregiving, such as housing, food, clothing, education, and healthcare. This would also help alleviate the financial burden that many of these grandparents face, allowing them to provide the best possible care for their grandchildren without compromising their own well-being.

Moreover, supporting grandparents who are raising grandchildren is not only a matter of social justice, but it also makes economic sense. Research has shown that children who are raised by their grandparents tend to have better outcomes in terms of their physical, emotional, and cognitive development compared to those in foster care or other alternative arrangements.

By providing financial support to these grandparents, we can ensure that more children have the opportunity to grow up in a stable and loving home, which in turn can lead to better outcomes for these children in the long run.

Conclusion

There is an immediate need for a regular fortnightly payment for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. This would not only recognise their invaluable contribution to our communities but also provide much needed assistance to those who are selflessly providing care to their grandchildren.

This is an urgent issue that requires attention, and we urge all stakeholders to consider implementing a policy to support these unsung heroes in our community.