Click and delete this text box to insert name of your local MP,

Dear Minister

I am a resident in your electorate and a Victorian carer who has volunteered to provide a stable and safe home for trauma-experienced children in out of home care. I want to bring to your attention the challenges that carers like me face due to the inadequate carers allowance of only $217.80 per week for a child up to 7 years of age. This is one of the lowest rates in Australia and it needs to change. As the cost of living continues to rise and the insufficient carer allowance remains stagnant, carers such as myself are increasingly struggling to support our children and we need your help.

To date over 1960 carers and supporters across the state have signed a petition organised by peak bodies, Foster Care Association Victoria and Permanent Care and Adoptive Families, advocating for an increase in the care allowance to align with other states <https://www.fcav.org.au/news/carer-allowance-analysis-by-jurisdiction> and keep pace with the costs of living.

In the last 24 months as costs of living have risen, the care allowance has remained stagnant. In both the 2022 and 2023 financial years the care allowance was only indexed by 2% when household inflation was over 6% on both years, with the consequence that the already low care allowance has declined in real value.

Click and delete text box to insert your own personal comments/perspective.

As a devoted carer in your electorate, I call on you to join us in the campaign and lobby for the Victorian Government to make the changes required to ensure that vulnerable children who are not able to live with their birth families receive the level of support and care that they need.

Victoria is losing good carers - more than any jurisdiction around the country according to this year’s [AIHW Child Protection Report](https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/child-protection/child-protection-australia-2021-22/data). As carers, our contribution must be valued, and the children we care for must not be left behind.

Signed

