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 care allowance of only $223 per week for a child up to 7 years of age. This is the lowest care allowance rate in Australia by a significant margin. All other states and territories have increased their allowance rates in the last 12 months to keep pace with the cost of living crisis except Victoria. As the cost of living continues to rise and the insufficient care allowance remains stagnant, carers such as myself are increasingly struggling to support the children and young people in our care and we need your help.

To date over 2600 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  [Victoria has the lowest Care Allowance rate for foster, kinship and permanent care in Australia.](https://www.fcav.org.au/news/victoria-has-the-lowest-care-allowance-rate-in-the-country)

In the last 3 years as costs of living have risen, the care allowance has not only been ignored but fallen in real value. The care allowance was only indexed by around 2% each year since 2022 when household inflation rose around 6%, with the consequence that the already low care allowance has declined in 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-insights/data) As carers, our contribution must be valued, and the children we care for must not be left behind.

Signed

