



26/02/2024

Kummara Limited and Infinity Community Solutions Ltd work to recruit, assess, support and monitor kinship carers and foster carers to care for children subject to Child Protection Orders. Of our 400 carer families, 98 percent are kinship carer families, which means they are related or considered family to the child or young person. The accessibility of childcare subsidy is essential for kinship carer families, as they have often chosen to provide care due to the adversity being experienced in the family. It's not planned, nor has the family had time to financially prepare to provide care. They volunteer due to family obligation. Briefly the issues that we see include:

- The application process for the subsidy requires the provider to submit forms on behalf of the person applying and failure on the providers part to do so only results in financial penalty to the carer.
- Individuals need to pass the activity test to be eligible and this excludes foster and kin carers who are not Australian Citizens, and
- Children and young people being cared for in Out-of-Home residential settings are not able to access any subsidy, despite their status as vulnerable. This impacts on their development and our ability to work towards them reunifying with parents or kinship carers, because accessing a stable early childhood centre acts as a protective factor.

We have examples of the impact of both and can provide these if required.

Regards

Dr. Annaley Clarke  
Chief Operating Officer  
KICS Kinship Service