

**From:**  
**To:** [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re Grandparents who have primary care of their grandchildren  
**Date:** Monday, 3 February 2014 1:33:11 PM  
**Attachments:**

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I have raised my beautiful grandson since he was a year old and he is now [REDACTED]. He was abandoned by both parents. His mother developing emotional /psychotic behaviour through drug abuse. He was traumatised by his mothers behaviours. I took care of him whilst trying to keep a job, had no help from centrelink, was cutting back work hours and living on my credit card, as an infant and toddler my grandson was often sick and many sleepless nights were had and the next day I was at work. I tried to get legal aid to protect him and gain custody, this was denied to me even though I worked 20 hours a week and owned no assets. So I went through the court system paying my own legals and went backwards financially. I would do it all again in a heart beat. I have an amazing young man who is [REDACTED].

Let me tell you about [REDACTED] [REDACTED] suffered with anxiety and stress for years and was severely bullied in primary school to the point of collapse. He struggled with the abandonment by his father and ongoing difficulties with his mothers outbursts. He was diagnosed with depression and anxiety and ADD. I feel had he not been with me a different child would be apparent now. In year 8 [REDACTED] joined the headspace committee as a yec member. At the opening event of headspace he emceed and introduced the dignitaries as well as providing the entertainment playing guitar and singing. He has done several newspaper articles regarding depression and bullying which he feels strongly about. [REDACTED] watches with interest as I run our non for profit charity [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]). He has a great understanding of why this charity needs to succeed. It is about the children, he believes every child deserves the opportunity to live a happy successful life. A gifted musician is [REDACTED], but still with confidence issues and prone to depression.

Let me tell you about [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. A non for profit charity to help the families of children raised by grandparents where the grandparents do not receive the foster/kinship care allowance. This came together out of sheer urgent, necessity. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] helps meet some of the shortfall these families are experiencing. We are trying to get programmes for the children, to guide them through the many obstacles on their path. Help build resiliency.

A little about me. Over the years I have belonged to grandparent support groups, and spoken to many grandparents who are needing support. When [REDACTED] came to be in my care I knew he needed all the love I could give, I knew I would do anything to help him have a happy life. There was very little help around. To say life has been a struggle is an understatement. My health has declined over the years, through stress and I have a very damaged back. After a 7 and a Half hour hysterectomy operation I came home to a 5 year old [REDACTED] and had no support. I severely herniated my scars and have ongoing problems with that. Love of [REDACTED] has driven me on to get him where he needs to be, it could be easier, with support

Problems facing grandparents raising grandchildren who do not receive foster/kinship

