

From:
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: The enquiry into Grandparents looking after Grandkids
Date: Wednesday, 5 February 2014 7:22:51 AM

Good morning--my wife and I have been the primary caregivers for 2 of our senior Grandkids these past 2yrs and look like continuing in that role for several yrs to come. Our Gson starts Med School in Brisbane this year and his sister is in yr 12. In all that time the only costs not borne by us have been both kids' private school fees. Otherwise we have paid for everything: food, lodging, transport, clothes, holidays, entertainment, computers, etc, etc.. Don't get me wrong, it has been a privilege and a life-changing experience, which in fact has kept me young. As a result of going to the gym with my Gson I have lost 20kg and am fitter at 70 than I was at 40!!! BUT it has meant postponing retirement for several yrs. I am a Specialist Surgeon and don't intend hanging up my scalpel until I'm 75. We can afford to look after them but it has changed our financial plans significantly. We must now renovate the old Granny flat where we looked after my mother-in-law for 12yrs before she died a few yrs ago, so that our Med Student can have some autonomy. We really should have been able to apply for some form of Government financial assistance, even if we did not qualify because of our situation, BUT it has not been easy and it has made us behave as Parents all over again. If you consider that our situation would assist your enquiry, my wife and I would love to help. Thank you, Dr Frank Moloney

Sent from Frank Moloney's iPad3