

Dear review panel,

I apologise that this is late.

Your website suggests that you are interested in reducing the incidence

of child abuse and children being removed from care.

I suggest the government act on the knowledge that \$1.00 spent on a baby/toddler saves \$14.00 spent on trying to help a teenager.

They could do this by:

1. stop blaming former governments, front-line workers and agencies....and discuss the problem of parents who abuse and neglect the

very children who should be able to trust them to care for them. This problem is inter-generational...these parents were abused and neglected

themselves!

2. start educating all parents on how to care for their children, especially in the area of emotional development, (i.e. pre-birth to 18

months of age) and language development (i.e. 0-3 years of age) via television advertisements. If there is one thing all parents do...it is

watch television. I do not believe these parents want to harm their children, but they are ignorant of how to help them and of their role as

a nurturer and teacher. Other programs that support vulnerable families

with children in this age group should be funded.....but the support should be for the children.

There is much more that can be discussed, and the problems are increasing, but I do believe that greater emotional stability and the ability to learn and gain an education (language acquisition is a reliable indicator of this) will reduce the number of children in care

in the future. Research backs this up. At the same time we must continue

to help those who are vulnerable and needy now.

Yours Sincerely,
Lyn Featherston