

afforded opportunities to deal with these losses, it is likely to have consequences for their development but more specifically on their development of an identity.

Although social workers assisted the foster families with the grant applications and food parcels, it was clear that there were also needs and expectations in terms of emotional support and guidance as to how to manage the new situation that were not adequately addressed.

The non-probability, purposive nature of the sample precludes generalisation of findings to the broader population of children in foster care. Nevertheless, the findings suggest the following recommendations for service delivery:

- Social workers rendering social services need to improve their effectiveness and streamline the grant application processes so that more time is available for psychosocial support. In this respect greater use needs to be made of social auxiliary workers, who could potentially relieve social workers of some of their administrative tasks;
- Social workers should not only focus on the administrative and concrete needs of the foster family and child, but should assess the emotional and psychological needs, and render psychosocial services to both the foster family and the foster child.

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Dr Edmarié Pretorius and Prof Eleanor Ross, Department of Social Work, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.