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GENERAL

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A DRASTIC funding cut to a Goldfields disability and respite care service could place the welfare of some Kalgoorlie-Boulder families in jeopardy.

Goldfields Individual and Family Support Association chairman Debbie Vincent said after 13 years of service in the Goldfields, funding provided by the Department for Health and Ageing under the National Respite for Carers program had been axed.

Mrs Vincent said the most disgraceful aspect of the funding cut was the lack of communication from the Federal and State Governments. She said jobs could be lost, services cut and families left in need without the funding, which last year totalled \$83,000.

"Are they going to be forced to move to get the support?" Mrs Vincent said.

Kalgoorlie mother Danashni Naidu said without the service her five-year-old daughter, Sudhashni, would suffer.

The family receives respite care from GIFSA which Mrs Naidu said she could not survive without.

"Without their help I don't know what I would do," Mrs Naidu said. "The girls come and relieve and it is such a good break."

Sudhashni has Angelman Syndrome which is a severe neurological disorder affecting motor and communication skills.

Mrs Naidu said she had no family or support networks in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and GIFSA had helped her family incredibly in the year since they moved here.

GIFSA is urging people to attend a rally in St Barbara's Square at 11am on Tuesday to protest against the funding cuts.

**GRAPHIC:** Carer cuts: Danashni Naidu fears funding cuts to the Goldfields Individual and Family Support Association will make life much harder for her and her daughter Sudhashni Naidu.