

For the kind attention of
Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir, Madam,

I write to you as a senior, (74), and a long term carer who has never felt respected, supported, understood let alone rewarded to some degree, as a carer, but gratefully respected and loved by people I care for. However, I am also a member of the Council of Elders, and OPAN/NOPRG, and Dementia Australia Advocate, member of FECCA etc. and heavily involved and interested in aged care reforms including those for the family carers, especially carers for people with severe disability and dementia, enabling people from CALD background to remain at home. I wish you to consider the below, because I have a number of urgent work commitments and cannot do any more surveys at present, however, I would be very grateful if you consider my points.

Thank you and kind regards

Danijela Hlis


POINTS TO CONSIDER:

Carers, especially older, long term carers from 1st Nations and CALD background remain unsupported and abused by the system and by the lack of recognition and support.

One size does not fit all; at 74, after over 30 years of being a carer, to people who speak no English, I do not need many of services available through Carer Gateway, like sessions on how to get a job, or how to better look after my own needs. My health by now had suffered too much, what I need is extra hours of support to have my loved

one cared for at home, for example, and me being able to occasionally go away to an organised carer retreat, where meditation, wellness, rest, peer group support is available to recharge mentally and physically.

Please Increase actual Carer Payment, OR provide Carer Respite packages that enable carer to live a life, not deliver over 150 hours of care per week to a loved one, year after year, who, even on level 4 high care, gets only about 16 hours of support per week from the service provider. (if over 65) (There are much better conditions for carers of people on NDIS-) Terrible Discrimination.

I ask for government Respect for my contributions to the Health budget. AS A PART TIME RELIEF CARER I DON'T EXIST IN THE SYSTEM, AND GET NO SUPPORT, AS I ONLY LIVE WITH THE PERSON I CARE FOR DURING THE TIMES I PROVIDE CARE. Calculate how much money we carers save the country. Estimate how many people could die if family carers go on a 3 day strike. Be realistic please. Stop giving us a Star Review/assessment each time we need a few additional hours of support. Be innovative; organise seminars, forums, get-away workshops where Carers exchange knowledge and experience. Improve culture appropriate respite so the family carer is not the only person who can help the person with dementia who has reverted to mother tongue.

A person living with advanced dementia and no English needs a carer at a higher level/commitment, so consider them **partners** ; Carers have the same human rights as anyone else BUT don't get many of their human rights respected. Carers of people from CALD communities remain in the role of the carer even once the person enters permanent care, we continue to take the person out, take ethnic specific meals to them, interpret, when interpreters are not called by the service provider, and much more, yet we are no longer recognized as a **carer**. ENSURE THESE FACTS ARE REFLECTED IN THE KEY PRINCIPLES PLEASE

STATEMENTS - 10 KEY POINTS: FIRSTLY WE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT A LOT OF THESE WERE PROMISES BUT VERY LITTLE WAS DONE; HOW MANY TIMES HAVE MY SISTER AND MYSELF APPLIED FOR ADDITIONAL RESPITE SUPPORT-(IN THE PAST 6 YEARS)BUT WERE TOLD THERE WAS NO FUNDING AND **WE SHOULD PUT OUR FAMILY MEMBER INTO PERMANENT CARE IF WE WERE NOT COPING ANY MORE?** (CONTRARY TO BEING TOLD BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT AUSTRALIA WANTS TO KEEP SENIORS AT HOME FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.)UNDER THE CARER GATEWAY WE ARE WORSE OFF THAN UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH RESPITE AND CARER SYSTEM. (FOR EXAMPLE, MY AIR FARES TO GO TO THE HOME OF THE PERSON I OFFER PART TIME CARE FOR, (BRISBANE TO CAIRNS RETURN) WERE PAID FOR.) THERE IS NOT ENOUGH FACE TO FACE CONSULTATIONS WITH US, OLDER CARERS, 1ST NATIONS CARERS, CARERS FROM CALD BACKGROUND OUR VOICES ARE NOT HEARD. I HAVE OFFERED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO WORK ON INNOVATIVE APPROACH WITH THEM FOR THE CARER GATEWAY, **THEY PROMISED THEY WILL CALL ME WHEN THEY ARE READY TO REVIEW THE CURRENT SITUATION. I hope they were sincere.**

I do hope you can consider my points- **Unpaid family and friend carers saved the Australian economy \$77.9 billion in 2020 . And much more during Covid.**

And to conclude: I don't have family. If and when I become unwell, I already know I will not be able to stay at home alone, with the limited amount of support that policy makers are envisaging for the new Home support system. My future is causing me great concern. And I am not alone. **And yet, if we all work together, Australia can be the leader in aging well and aged care enablement and care for ALL.**