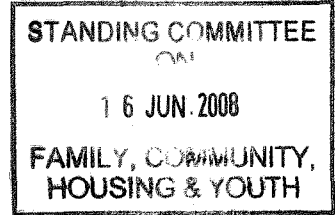


A.O.C. 25/6/08

Submission No. 29.1

(Inq into better support for carers)

Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Secretary

I wish to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth's Inquiry into Better Support for Carers.

I am submitting to the Inquiry because...

I have so far been a full-time carer for 6 years, for my wife who has Alzheimer's disease

More information is attached on a separate sheet

1. The role and contribution of carers in society

As a carer, I feel that my role is...

to lobby and make politicians and society aware of carers' predicament. I have been active in publicity, newspapers and T.V., as well as submission writing. My partner and I are used as a photo-icon for publicity by Alz. Austr. Vic, and assist it in awareness raising.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

2. The barriers to social and economic participation for carers

As a carer, I face the following problems ...

The disease certainly determines who your real friends are. As my wife deteriorates, so does our social contact, aggravating an already lonely existence. As carer it is difficult to not be dragged down by the disease, or keep own integrity intact. 'Economic Participation' = Centrelink allowances.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

- I struggle to not be 'boxed in' by the carer label. I have needs as well, intimate, or otherwise.
- I struggle with the 'distant' welfare system, with NO-ONE acting as 'case manager.'

More information is attached on a separate sheet

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

I think the Government can better help carers by ...

- appointing a really reliable experienced 'case manager'
 - fit all relevant info. on an A4 sheet, specific for carer's catchment. Existing system is vague, not clear cut
 - regularly reviewing carers' needs and act upon them.
- My exhaustion is compounded with my wife's deterioration.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

Thank you for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committee's Inquiry. I look forward to reviewing any recommendations you make to improve life for carers in Australia.

Yours sincerely

MARTIN

Print your name

Date

7th June 2008

P.S. Refer to my Email submission as well
5.6.08