

Submission No. 30

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 10/6/08

From: Melanie
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2008 9:46 AM
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: carer's enquiry

Further to an email I recieved regarding an inquiry to determine how to better meet the needs of carers who look after those with chronic illness, disabilities or frailty; As a carer of two family members with mental health diagnosis-there are many issues facing carers of people with mental health issues, including severe gaps in the mental health system. The following are a few:

- No services for people with Chronic anxiety conditions. No specific or intensive programs for people with chronic anxiety bases illnesses. Alot of future resources could be saved by treating people earlier with more intensive programs.
- No hospitalisation for people unless they are suicidal or at risk of harming other-regardless of thier presentation (example-not having had a shower in over a year)
- Lack of accommodation options for people with mental health issues.
- Lack of transport assistance for carer's
- Carer's allowance not taking into consideration the numerous emotional and psychological impact on the caring role of people with mental illness-many carer's not recieving benefits.
- The lack of mandatory guidlines on the provision of day programs in each municipality for people with mental illness (ie-psychosocial rehabilitation)
- Lack of formal plans for people with mental illness-addressing all life areas of the client.
- Vast differences in the provision of services through Commonwealth Carer respite centres across different regions within the same State.

Good things about current services regarding mental health:

- Medicare rebate for psychology services.
- New 'working carer's' initiative

I do not have time to elaborate further today, as I am at work.
I am happy to be contacted for further consultation if needed

Kind regards,
Melanie