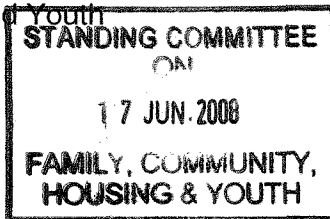


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission No. 88
(Inq into better support for carers)
A .cc . 23/6/08



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...

of the need for information to the service providers. It's necessary for change to happen, hopefully for the better for the carers and the cared for.

I'm tired of attending meetings that don't resolve any of the circumstances we face.

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...

invaluable. It is underrated by the general populace not directly involved in the caring role themselves.

No financial reward will make up for the sacrifices made these children did not ask to be born like this it should not be discarded, or the elderly or persons in need of care.

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 lack of services to allow us to socialise. The local councils funding ^{staffing} limited to cover any more than a few hours a week. we cannot attend theatre, wedding receptions, funerals,

The respite services are limited for places, beds occupied by the homeless, nothing much available in western suburbs, & the cost keeps going up.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

Each time ^{the} index is raised the bed fees are increased making use of service a financial strain. scope is the highest priced respite bed available.

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

How to set my child/adult up for security in housing & financially in the future when we are not here. All avenues we have looked at including an independent living quarters attached to our house have met with frustration. No govt. funding to assist program of cares in the home but if they go to a nursing home, (to knock grazing over that's ok) it's funded. More information is attached on a separate sheet where is the sense. Quite frankly I'm not holding my breath for change to happen.

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

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

Listening

Action - Provide interim housing so the ^{cared} person can become settled gradually with the days of occupancy increasing as the carer needs. This would bring relief mentally & physically. It is shameful that parents in their 80s are still expected to be carers of their handicapped children. More information is attached on a separate sheet. We are not asking the government to shoulder all the responsibility we have done that by taking the carer role from birth on but some assistance in carrying out that role would be appreciated.

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

P.

Print your name

12.6.08

Date