

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

Rec 28/1/08

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...

I AM A CARER OF AN ACTIVE ADULT SON AND NEED MORE RESPIRE OPTIONS TO COPE WITH THE DEMANDS OF THIS ROLE ESPECIALLY NOW THAT I AM CONSIDERED AN "AGED" CARER.

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...

DEVALUED! I EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING SERVICES AND ENOUGH RESPITE CARE. I AM AN EXTREMELY GOOD MONEY SAVER FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

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 ...

NO FAMILY SUPPORT DUE TO FEAR OF THE HIGH LEVEL OF SUPPORT/SUPERVISION. THE "UNKNOWN" FACTOR PLAYS A HIGH PART. STILL A STIGMA ATTACHED THROUGHOUT PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY. I HAVE ^{HAD} LIMITED OPTIONS TO STUDY OR SEEK A CAREER WHICH HAS LED TO LIMITED INCOME. NO SPARE CASH FOR HOUSE MAINTENANCE OR HOLIDAYS, AND LITTLE DENTAL CARE.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

LONGER RESPITE OPTIONS TO ENABLE A HOSPITAL STAY
(NEED OPERATION ON FOOT), AND ALSO TAKE A DECENT HOLIDAY,
(I'VE ONLY EXPERIENCE (1) IN THIRTY YEARS). I WOULD ALSO
LIKE BETTER DENTAL CARE & FREEDOM TO CHOOSE MY OWN
DENTIST. THE HIGH NUMBER OF FORMS TO BE COMPLETED
(~~FORMS~~) SHOULD BE REDUCED. More information is attached on a separate sheet
BUT HIS HEALTH IS ACTUALLY DECLINING. MY SON IS NOT GETTING BETTER

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

I think the Government can better help carers by ... REDUCING RED TAPE FOR SERVICES.

E.G. I HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING TO OBTAIN A COMPANION CARD FOR MY SON
AND WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A LETTER FROM HIS G.P. WOULD HAVE SUFFICED,
BUT INSTEAD I HAVE TO TRAVEL TO MELBOURNE FOR HIM TO SEE A
SPECIALIST DOCTOR. / MORE RESPITE HOUSES NEEDED TO PROVIDE
EMERGENCY CARE WHEN A CARER IS HOSPITALIZED OR TOO
ILL. EVEN & ESPECIALLY THE DEATH OF A CARER. / HOLIDAYS FOR
CARERS IS LIMITED TO A WEEK AT A TIME AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO
BE EXTENDED.

ACTIVE CLIENTS SHOULD BE PLACED WITH LIKE CLIENTS DURING
RESPIRE. HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES SHOULD BE RETURNED.
FUNDING FOR →

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

JEANNETTE

Print your name

2ND JULY 2008

Date

P.S. WHY WASN'T THIS INQUIRY QUESTIONNAIRE
POSTED TO CARERS RECEIVING THE CARERS ALLOWANCE?