

A.O.C. 26/6/08

Sent: Wednesday, 11 June 2008

To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)

Subject: AC Response

SECRETARY

Inquiry into better support for carers

Standing committee on family, housing, youth

Dear secretary I wish to make a submission to the house of representatives standing committee on family, community, and youths inquiry into better support for carers.

MY ROLE AS A CARER IS"

Working 24 hours a day not in a 9 to 5 job that I can go home and have some peace to just relax that does not exist as a carer you have to be on duty 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Making sure of doctors and hospital appointments and spending most of the carers payment in petrol, medical bills in which I mean there is no radiation treatment here on the gold coast at all and the closest place is Brisbane can you imagine going by public transport by train with somebody vomiting or dare on public transport system.

So in order to have somewhere closer he has to pay for private treatment at John Flynn hospital at Tweed and I have to drive him there every day and you have to pay the first part of medical before getting it refunded back by Medicare which is over the 550.00 dollars and then on top of petrol costs as well every day two tanks of fuel every week at 68.00 per tank I only get 500.00 per fortnight can you do the sums any better and then live on top of that ?

Don't try and tell me there is a cancer bus as I would have to go by taxi to Robina station catch a bus to Southport and then catch the cancer bus to Brisbane and then if your treatment goes past two PM find your own way home /// by public transport ???

I know I have been there it is not run by the government at all only by the cancer council of Australia.

If you are lucky to get into Brisbane there is a waiting list people have died while waiting to get treatment.

How can you explain this to kids or older people vomiting cramping because of radiation treatment Or cancer treatment

There is no public transport where I live either and I only live approximately 7km from town business Centrex at Robina in QLD Gold Coast.

With petrol and running costs of having a car on top of that is impossible to live on a carers pension so I have to work part time at night when the person I care for goes to sleep and I have to organize a friend to stay the night so I

can work part time.

And when I get home at 7am in the morning I have to take him to hospital for treatment radiation treatments or doctors then I have to make sure he eats and takes his medical prescriptions clean and all the house hold duties as well so that does not leave me much time to sleep I have no choice in this matter and with the price of food petrol and every day living expenses it is not a life style I will be able to keep up for ever.

Will the public hospitals system be able to take on the responsibilities of all the patients if every carer dropped the person they take care of at a public hospital ?

I BET THE ANSWER TO THAT IS NO

My caring role affects every part of my life there is no time out there is no money to even go for a cup of coffee to meet friends as I could not even afford the petrol money to get there

I have had to go to salvation army for food vouchers just to survive I do not get any rent assistance as I am paying off a mortgage but if I was to rent the house out I could get rent assistance a extra 100.00 per fortnight DOES THAT MAKE SENSE TO YOU IT DOES NOT TO ME.

As for working most people want somebody to work more than 25 hours per week including travelling time or they do not want to know you I have tried to find more work to keep going but it is getting harder and harder every day I have also done a course as a security guard so I can work at night and be with Des during the day when he needs me in order to make sure of him keeping all his appointments.

The other day I got home from work and immediately went to hospital with Des and had to sit around for three hours with a appointment I understand the doctors and nurses are short handed but give us a break

With no sleep from 24 hours before sitting around a hospital for three hours is no fun at all maybe you should try it and then drive home on top of that.

What employers are going to keep hiring people with sleep deprivation and having to take time off to take the person they are looking after to hospital time and time again will keep hiring that person if you were a employer you would find somebody that will be there all the time. Not a carer with other responsibility's.

The proper and practical measures would give the carers more money to live on we do not want to be in this situation we are forced in this situation to care for someone they do not want on the streets or in your public HOSPITAL system.

Your hospital situation is bad now can you imagine with all the patients from the carers on top of it how the hospital situation would be then????

Maybe somebody in your positions try and live in ours for a month you would not make it I can guarantee it give it a go I dare you.

I don't or shouldn't be forced into selling my house I have worked so hard for in my life for this period.

Des has terminal cancer we don't know how long he has got but I am all he has got

So please please help people like my self and people in this same situation make our lives easier but just a couple of hundred a fortnight we could survive and pay our medical bills doctors don't come free all the time try and find one that bulk bills you will not find many they are rare commodity these days.

We are not dole bludgers that don't want to work we ARE the people that vote also.

Yours sincerely

PS I am typing this while Des is asleep
