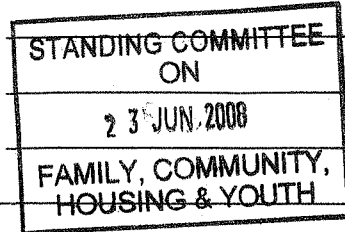


19.06.08

Therese.



Submission No. 303
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 30/6/08

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. My role as a carer of a 12 year old son with Autism is a very challenging one especially harder for me as I am disabled as well and in a wheelchair. My son because of his Autism thinks I am Wonder Woman but I find it hard to get through the day with his disability and my own. We struggle each fortnight to make ends meet as my husband had to give up work and go on a Carers Pension I could not manage any longer on my own at home. Financially it is very hard when you have a mortgage, car and have to eat! The price of food especially meat has risen so much but not our pensions. We can not even afford a hairdresser I have this job I do all our hair. It is very distressing when you do

not have enough money to go to a doctor or a specialist. I buy clothes from Op Shops we cut down on water & electricity we do not go out - WE HAVE NO LIFE! I get very angry when I see the government giving all this overseas aid when they can't even help the people in our own country. I wish they could spend a week in my boots just to see what it is like financially and mentally.

Give Carers and Pensioners -

1. Pay Rise
2. Bulk Billing for Doctors & Specialists
3. Bigger subsidies for medical aids
4. Cheaper electricity & water
5. Cheaper vans for wheelchair people to get out in the community
6. HELP! HELP! HELP!

Yours Sincerely