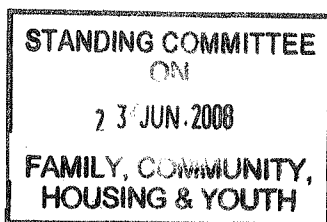


Graziana



Submission No. 306
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 30/6/08

18th June 2008

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth

Dear Secretary

I wish to make a submission to the house of Representatives Standing Committee on family, Community, Housing and Youths' Inquiry Better Support for carers, because I feel I have a different situation to many other carers.

I care about my disabled son of 34 years of age, during the weekends, because he has been institutionalized, at INALA, since he was 17 years of age.

I have no complaints about the care he receives.

I am fully aware that it is my choice to take him out on the weekend, and keep doing it because is my only way to give him my love through the special attentions and treats he enjoy while we are together.

At present I am experiencing health problems that will make very difficult to keep attending him on the weekends without support.

For that reason I request the Committee to look into the establishment of a Weekend Program to provide Respite Care at home to help relatives to attend their religious activities (at present I am not able to attend my Catholic Mass) or any other social functions, since the decease of my husband on the 26th December 2007.

In the other alternative that my son has to remain at INALA for seven days a week, I have a serious concern because there are not specific activities on weekends for the people of his age group.

It will be very beneficial for these people to have Weekend Carers who can take them out to participate in different activities than the ones of weekly working days.

Hoping my request can be positively considered and implemented I thank you in anticipation for your attention.

Yours faithfully