

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. 314
(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.

I am submitting to the Inquiry because...

My husband and I current and have for 27 yrs cared for
a disabled and artistic child. This has occurred with minimal
support + funding from any govt body or regulator. We are
in desperate need for assistance both with personal + finances

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...

highly demanding, both physically and mentally,
highly stressful with significant impact on myself +
family. My role is neglected in society and lacks
attention, finances and resources

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 ...

mental + physical illness, bureaucratic barriers to
resource support + funding. Alienated from
the community and the 'norm' way of life.
Ability to lead a normal life with the
opportunity to fit into society.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

personnel, resourcing, placement opportunities,
finances. I need help with an influential person
to take onboard the many families, who are
in desperate need of assistance

More information is attached on a separate sheet

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

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

allocating funding that can make a difference
to the average Australian family, providing us
the opportunity to lead a somewhat sociable
& normal life within our community

More information is attached on a separate sheet

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

Signature

Print your name

Date

Postal Address

Contact Telephone Number

I am submitting to the inquiry because.....

The nature of this disability destroys the "family unit" in its true meaning of normality and significantly impacts our ability to "fit" within society.

The one aspect that can provide us with both an outlet and opportunity is the regular and certain support from outside resources, allowing us the chance to salvage time and unity as a family and within the community.

Resources in the form of carers are seen as invaluable yet scarce, with the accessibility quite challenging. In conjunction, the degree of difficulty in the accessibility of funding is too seen as a challenge.

1. The role and contribution of carers in society.

As a carer, I feel that my role...

Receives, little to no priority. In actual fact I feel that as a carer I am disengaged from the community from both a moral and financial aspect. As a carer I have sacrificed a level of humanity and have done so in a "stand alone" manner. Carers need to be heard and attended to in a manner which provides some recognition in the form of resource and financial assistance.

2. The barriers to social and economic participation for carers.

As a carer, I face the following problems...

A lone voice in a community that has miss-prioritised what's they see as important and that include salvaging the family unit in the face of adversity.

As a carer, I face the political environment in which the importance of my role seems to be unnoticed and under valued.

3. The practical measures required to better support carers.

As a carer, I need help with...

As increase in support from an education, social and economic perspective would assist in meeting the daily challenges.

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices.

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

Introducing a support and educational program for carers in similar circumstances providing not only a support mechanism but an opportunity to share and learn.

The government can better assist carers through effective prioritising this within the political environment.