

Submission No. 366

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C 1/7/08

**Sent:** Monday, 23 June 2008 9:24 PM

**To:** Committee, FCHY (REPS)

**Subject:** Support for Carers

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

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 name is Wouter I am a full time carer for my wife for the last 12 years ,she suffers with a mental illness ( schizophrenia) since 1977.

The barriers to social and economic participation for carers are considerable' due to financial hardship and problems in finding someone suitable to step in and take on my duties at times when I need a brake , as the person relieving me would need to be familiar with procedures required and the person needed the care would need to be comfortable with that person.

In reality though most carers would be to stressed and tired to beable to participate in any social functions.

Practical measures to help carers to better support themselves, especially into the future and give them some hope and peace of mind, would be :

1) Establish a fund, such as super, where the government put in funds so that carers will built up some security in old age. This is especially important for younger carers, who might have a very long period of caring ahead of them.

2) A superannuation type of fund for older carers , backdated from when it became compulsory for employers to pay super for their employees.

3) Amalgamate all existing carers services into one organization covering all of the commonwealth of Australia.It would then become a one stop shop which would be much easier to deal with and should run also more efficient, hence also far more economical to run.

4) It is estimated( according to latest figures) that carers contribute around 32 billion dollars to the economy on a yearly bases, this figure increases on a yearly bases.

It is therefore reasonable to have an immediate rise for the carers allowance of at least 50 dollars a week.

5) For the best outcome of treatment confidentiality law needs to be changed.

The treating doctor and main carer should be in complete partnership.

Any thing to do with the illness should be fully discussed with the carer , This will in the longer term be more beneficial to the consumer.

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.

24/06/2008

Yours sincerely Wouter

Monday, June 23, 2008