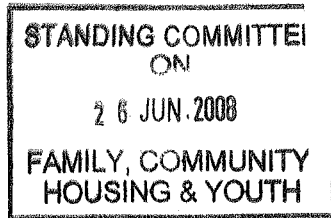


20th June 2008



Submission No. 468
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 2/7/08

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth
P.O.Box 6021
House Of Representatives
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.

As a mother of a challenging behaviour problem and physical disabled daughter aged 36years. I had to give up work in order to look after her making my husband fully responsible for any income. I do not get the carer's pension because my husband works. I only get the carer's allowance which I feel is wrong. Had I not been a carer I would be out there in the workforce. I face challenging problems every day and I am isolated from the community as a result of my daughter's problems. In order for me to go out once per week to do the family grocery shopping I have to rely on respite care which I am grateful for but that is the extent of me leaving the family home without her. My daughter has huge social problems and cannot handle new or strange people.

I think the Government can better help carers in my situation. I cannot attend any services provided by the community as I have to be home taking care of my daughter. The respite care I get is only 3 hours per week and that comes out of my own pocket.

Thank you for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committee's Inquire. I look forward to reviewing any recommendations you make to improve life for carers in Australia.

Yours sincerely

Melina