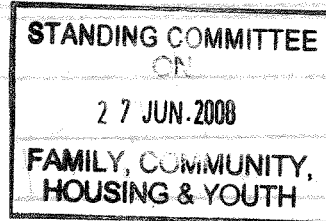


24th June 2008



Submission No. 493
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 7/7/08

Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

I wish to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth Inquiry into Better Support for Carers.

My role as a Carer is a tough one. I care full-time for my brother who has a mental illness. We are both in our 40's. We've come from a dysfunctional family, and are both battling behavioral and emotional problems.

We still believe that it is better for us to stay together, as hard as that can be sometimes. and we are happier to be doing what we're doing than have Chris living on his own, and me walk away from the responsibility in the name of "an easier life"

A lot of Carers I have met drone on about how miserable their lives are, but I am proud

to be a Carer, and am proud of what I do every day to help Chris have a good quality of life. I think that there is just as much opportunity for a Carer to have a great life as there is for anyone else.

We really appreciate the help and support of places like Carers QLD and ARAFMI, who help us to enjoy life and teach us how to cope. There's really not much to improve, as these organizations do excellent work. I only want to see the whole thing evolve, so that, in time, it won't be about bright spots, but an established way of life.

Thank you for taking my views into consideration as part of The Committees Inquiry. I look forward to reviewing the recommendations you make in order to improve support for carers.