

TO: THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY,
(Standing Committee On Family, Community, Housing & Youth,)
P.O. BOX 6021,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
PARLIAMENT HOUSE,
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600

Barrie (Carer,)

Submission No. 651
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 8/7/08

Dear Political Colleagues,

As Barrie is unable to appropriately document info; in writing to Professional Colleagues ("in Office",) he has asked me to communicate to you on his behalf. ("Rhondda" ^{is my wife} & I am ^{her husband})

(1) I consider that my Role as 'Carer' has proven to have become incredibly demanding & stressful due to not even being able to fulfill ALL of the required, daily living needs, therefore, it has become somewhat 'compromised' from all levels - Socially, physically & typically, insufficient time in ANY given day to adequately cope as I would prefer to be able to undertake on behalf of both my wife & also that of myself.

(2) As far as "contributing" to our Community is concerned, this is one of the issues which I believe cannot be carried out, due to other demands of which I am expected to deal with on a daily basis. It has become essential for me to accept Casual Employment, although my Job offers me considerable stress, ^{PHYSICALLY} I have absolutely no alternative option, both financially & because I do not have a Trade now. (I was once a Glazier, PRIOR to changing my Vocation as a MEDICAL ORDERLY in one of our Govt. Hospitals.) However, this Trade has advanced somewhat considerably, therefore, am not currently qualified to accept this line of Employment. (Also I am almost 70 yrs. of Age & should not HAVE to undertake ANY outside Employment now !)

(3) The following problems are: Mainly FINANCIAL !! What is so farcical, is how the current Govt. "The RUDD" Govt. constantly remind us how that they have 'honored' their promise to Carers & Pensioners/Seniors by offering us the one-off "BONUS" - yet, it is more important to take into consideration, that our BASIC PENSION IS UNREASONABLE & UNCONSCIONABLE ! Our Senators/Politicians ALL receive INCREDIBLE Retirement Incomes, whilst OUR Taxes have NEVER offered US A FAIR AMT. OF MONEY = A PENSION during our entire lives since Retirement !!!

OUR Pension has PROVEN to have been MUCH LESS THAN THAT OF WHAT A 14 YR. OLD WOULD EARN BY WORKING FOR McDONALDS !! The AUDACITY of BOTH Labor & Liberal Govts. is, how they expect US to SAVE SOME OF OUR INCOME OVER SEVERAL YRS. TOWARDS OUR RETIREMENT, BUT ! WE HAVE ONLY BEEN ALLOWED TO EARN \$27,000.00 ANNUALLY !!!! (+ Rhondda had to Work for most of her married life, Part-Time, TO ENABLE US TO AFFORD TO PAY OFF AN INEXPENSIVE HOME, in conjunction with raising 3 Children & their related Expenses !!!) NO-one can afford to "SAVE" ANY Money towards their Retirement on this level of Income !!!

(4) "I cannot fully participate in a "social" level of life due to the obvious Commitments, which is trying to cope with my Job, - "JUNK MAIL" over 4 days a week !!! + to help my wife as much as possible & of course, I am not ABLE to look after her adequately as well, because I am forced to be out on the streets for 7 1/2 hrs. each day, by delivering the Junk Mail !!

(OVER 2 1/2 DAYS = MID WK. + 1/2 OF THE WK. END)

(5) "I am struggling Financially, BECAUSE OUR GOVT, HAS NEVER OFFERED US A FAIR PENSION TO ENABLE US TO LIVE OUR LIVES WITH CERTAIN DIGNITY & I BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE A RIGHT FOR ALL THE AUST. PEOPLE TO BE MORE FAIRLY PAID !! (& it should be stated that WE have never tried to live beyond our means !) OUR Home was only \$14,000.00 during the early 70's, but this very same Home now, would be worth \$180,000.00 !!!!

Also ! we ended up losing ALL of our Livelihood, due to our 'unfair' Legal System !! As a consequence of Rhondda's Settlement of only \$5 1/2,000.00 (& by the way, she was SUPPOSE to have been Paid well over \$200,000.00, but, as we were not willing to risk the Litigation Process, we had no alternative Option !!) Therefore, WE became Victims of not receiving OUR RIGHT OF PROFESSIONAL & ETHICAL SUPPORT FROM OUR STATE GOVT. !!! (We were then forced to live in a large On-Site Caravan in a Park until GOVT. HOUSING BECAME AVAILABLE & NOW WE ARE PAYING FAR TOO MUCH IN RENT TO LIVE IN ONE OF THESE HOMES !! (Even with Rent Assistance, we STILL Pay more than we should be required to Pay !!) Also, (which is unconscionable, is how that as we only earn UNDER \$10,000.00 Annually, the Govt. SHOULD NOT BE DEDUCTING AN ADDITIONAL 25% in MORE Rent based on our Income !!!) THIS AMT. in Income should NOT infringe on us having to pay ANY MONEY BACK TO THE GOVT. BECAUSE WE ARE CURRENTLY "LIVING WELL BELOW THE POVERTY LINE" !!! (In other words, our 'Pollies' can earn 10's of 1,000's of \$'s, yet WE WOULD ONLY BE EARNING A MISERABLE AMT. OF LESS THAN \$10,000 & the Govt. STILL DECIDES TO CAUSE US TO FACE THE INDIGNITY OF "GOING WITHOUT" !!!! (One Rule for the Govt. & ANOTHER for us !!) THEY CAN "HAVE" WHILST WE CANNOT "HAVE" !! Is this FAIR GOVERNANCE !! No comment !!

(6) In ref. to "I would like to work" - NO ! I WOULD NOT "LIKE" TO WORK AT ALL, especially, as I am almost 70 yrs. of Age, one should NOT HAVE TO, OR TO BE EXPECTED TO WORK, ONCE WE REACH THIS AGE & OVER !! (but, depending on one's Profession !) I.E. A CHIR-PRACTOR, OR Physiotherapist, Dentist, Dr. etc. COULD, no doubt, continue to "work" IF they enjoy good health & are not needing to undertake the responsibility of that of being a "Carer" as well !! Just being a "Carer" IS "work" REAL work & therefore, I/we would like to challenge our current Govt. & recommend & suggest that they consider PAYING ALL CARERS \$400.00 - \$800.00 a F/night, to ENABLE people such as myself to be able to "LIVE" a much deserved & a much needed MORE "NORMAL" life !! (which I am quite unable to do now !!) Also, I am struggling with "CHRONIC SLEEP APNOEA" & other related Health problems as most of us would at my Age !!

When you take into consideration of my current ADDITIONAL Income - BOTH The Carer's Allowance of \$100.00 F/N, PLUS my Junk Mail Income of \$9,000.00 Annually, yet we STILL CANNOT AFFORD ADEQUATE CLOTHING & A FEW OTHER POSSIBLE LUXURIES, because our Medical Expenses are high (also, we are BOTH on a Dairy & a Gluten-Free Diet & this in itself is considerably, a lot more expensive than that of our existing, BASIC Diet ! = Take RICE-MILK/ SOYA MILK for example just ONE LITRE COSTS OVER \$2.00 !!!) etc.

(7) "Yes - I/WE ! DO worry about our future" BECAUSE OUR GOVT. IS NOT AS CLEVER AS OUR COUNTERPARTS IN SOME OF OUR OTHER COUNTRIES = FREE MEDICAL SERVICES +++++ ! (as was also confirmed on T.V. - the ABC only last week, in fact !! The Elderly are MUCH MORE PROFESSIONALLY & MORE FAIRLY CARED FOR THAN WE ARE NOW IN THE 21st. CENTURY ! Barrie is unable to Cook home-cooked meals & we do NOT LIKE "MEALS ON WHEELS" OR WOULD BE ABLE TO EAT THEIR FOOD ! (we could NOT & WOULD NOT, EAT ANY MEAT OR FISH, OR PASTA, WE ONLY EAT ORGANIC BROWN RICE & ORGANICALLY - HOME-GROWN VEGS. - some, we have to buy but we cannot eat a lot of

fruit & Veggies. either due to not liking certain types, OR, due to not being recommended by Medical Professionals; - such as, we should not include, either, Cauliflower, the Cabbage Family of Veggies. due to being a Medical threat to those of us who are of Type "O" Blood, because Type "O's" suffer with LOW THYROID FUNCTION !! (& so it goes !)

Therefore, in the final Analysis re: OUR future, predictably, we don't believe that OUR Health needs would be met by outside Professionals, - + even if someone WERE to be delegated to undertake on our behalf, we would not have enough Income to be able to afford to PAY for ANY OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE !!! (So, is it any wonder, how that suicide IS the ONLY possible option !) Our Govt. could not implement Fines for those of us who 'ended' our lives anyway, because we would BOTH 'go' together ! (I.E. Placing a hose in our Exhaust pipe & turn the Engine of our Car on !) etc. etc. It seems, BY OUR GOVT. to try to prevent us from carrying out the decision to suicide, BUT ! IF, you were totally HONEST WITH YOURSELVES, YOU SHOULD BE WONDERING AS TO THE REASON !!! THE REASON IS NOT ALWAYS DUE TO PHYSICAL SUFFERING, BUT, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, IT IS DUE TO BEING EXPECTED TO LIVE IN ABSOLUTE POVERTY !!!

(8) Re: "Things that might 'stress' me as a Carer" is very simple & basic ! NOT ENOUGH MONEY TO LIVE ON !! NOTHING MORE !!! I would not HAVE to accept OUTSIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF INCOME, IF WE WERE OFFERED A MORE REASONABLE & ACCEPTABLE PENSION/CARER INCOME IN THE VERY 1st. PLACE !!!

(FOR GOOD NURS. HOMES!)

Unfortunately, neither myself or my wife would be able to offer you ANY possible ideas or solutions to enable Carers or all Elderly people to better manage their lifestyle, suffice to add, how that we should not be required to be placed in LOW-STATUS OF NURSING/PROFESSIONAL CARE = Nursing Homes, if we don't have the extremely high amts. of money = Deposits to pay BEFORE BEING PLACED INTO CARE !!! One (or possibly more !) but we know of ONE VERY GOOD NURSING HOME HERE ON THE STH. COAST - "KIAMA"/KIRRIBILLI" NURS. HOME, WHICH IS EXTREMELY UNDER-STAFFED & THEREFORE, THIS IS ABSOLUTE PROOF, THAT THE "RUDD" GOVT. HAS NOT CARRIED OUT THEIR LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY OF PROMISE TO ALL OF THE AUST'n PEOPLE !!! What we ARE, in fact, realizing, is, that there has been & still IS, far too much 'talk', reminding us * (by Ms. Jenny Macklin, Kevin Rudd & Wayne Swan,) REPEATING OVER & OVER AGAIN !!!!! HOW THAT THEY HAVE OFFERED US OUR BONUS !!!!! (but, what they are NOT telling us, is how that we WON'T BE RECEIVING THE BONUS NEXT YEAR !!!!!) This attitude is unacceptable & is also typical of ALL OF OUR PAST POLITICIANS !!! WE RECEIVE ONLY ONE "DIP" INTO THE LOLLY JAR & NO MORE AFTER THAT !! (typical Politics !) In other words, you the Govt are NOT ADEQUATELY CARRYING OUT YOUR REAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO ALL OF YOUR PEOPLE HERE IN AUSTRALIA !!! Also, as we HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE (as 1,000's of other Aust's. are now finding BUT to accept SOME "Alternative" Medicine Supp's. + a Protein Powder Supp. = \$75.00 for 2 X 1 Kilos,) Pensioners should receive a MEDICAL GRANT EACH YEAR TO ENABLE US TO AFFORD ANY HEALTH SUPP: WHICH IS ALSO RECOGNIZED & SUPPORTED BY OUR G.P's. AS WELL - NOT JUST NATUROPATHS etc. !!! - Not EVERYthing IS AVAIL. on the P.B.S. Scheme + ALL Pharmacy Protein Supp's are INAPPROPRIATE = unacceptable Formulas !! Many of us KNOW OURSELVES WHAT IS BEST SUITED FOR OUR HEALTH NEEDS , WE DO NOT NEED TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION FROM OTHER PROFESSIONALS !!!!!

N.B. CURRENTLY - WE ARE NOT "PLANNING" TO END OUR LIVES - THIS OPTION WOULD BE A MATTER OF BEING A 'LAST RESORT' IF ALL OUTSIDE OPTIONS FAIL !!
DILIP SUFFERS WITH "POST-POLIO/CHRONIC FATIGUE" SYNDROME.

P.S. WE HAVE - IN THE PAST, SENT
CORRESPONDENCE TO MOST LEVELS
OF BOTH OUR FED. & STATE GOVT.
REPRESENTATIVES, BUT, THUS FAR HAVE
TYPICALLY, ONLY REC'D. BUREAUCRATIC
'RETORIC' - (CORRESPONDENCE) WHICH,
ESSENTIALLY, IS ABSOLUTELY APPALL-
ING AND IS NOT BASED ON
'FAIR' 'GOVERNANCE' TOWARDS THE
AUSTIN. PEOPLE !! WILL THIS 'COLD-
HEARTED' DIATRIBE (ATTITUDE)
EVER CHANGE ? !! IN OTHER WORDS,
WE CURRENTLY BELIEVE, THAT EVEN
AS SO MANY OF US FOR SOME TIME
NOW, HAVE TRIED TO ACKNOWLEDGE
TO THE FED. & STATE GOVT. OF OUR
ISSUES, ONLY TO BE SEEN TO BE
AN ABSOLUTE WASTE OF TIME !!
HOW MUCH LONGER DOES THE GOVT.
INTEND TO 'TURN A DEAF EAR' BY
SIMPLY REMINDING US OF THE LITTLE
GOOD - THEY HAVE UNDERTAKEN ?

ALSO, THEY CONTINUE TO IGNORE
THE REAL, DOWN-TO-EARTH
PROBLEMS? !!! WE ARE FED UP
WITH THEIR 'ACTING OUT' - REPEATED
& WASTED "OPINION" - DOING
VERY LITTLE OF MUCH
NEEDED RESPONSIBILITY OF
WORTH WHICH SHOULD BE OUR
CURRENT ENTITLEMENT, BUT WE
HAVE VERY LITTLE !!! TO BE
FORCED TO APPROACH OUR COMMUN-
ITY FOR HELP IS NOT OFFERING
ANY WORTH FOR WHAT OUR
GOUT. SHOULD BE UNDERTAKING
ON OUR BEHALF !!!