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Submission No. 779

(Inq into better support for carers)

AOC 15/7/08

1 July, 2008

Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing & Youth
P.O. Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT. 2600

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

As a carer, I feel that my role is important to the community because if I felt unable to cope with my situation, the person I care for would become an issue for the government & tax payers' money to deal with. So with this in mind I feel the carers allowance & payments need to be reviewed. I cannot express the added work involved in caring for my child {much the same for all carers I feel.}

Apart from the obvious 24/7 on call hands on work, I would not have the amount of meetings, forms, & conversations to deal with if I was not a carer. The research into the help that is out there for me to access, is also time consuming, & that is if I am in the frame of mind to fully explain my situation yet again, as well as make appointments ect. In order to prove I am eligible for whatever it is I have found & feel would help me in my life.

With all that in mind, the cost of living {Petrol & now Food} is rising & my "PAY" has not.

A way to help us genuine carers would be to have us recognised on a "carers list" of some sort that all Services can access. This list would have criteria to meet & updates would not be necessary as the Disability of the charge is permanent. Centrelink have all our details & could easily compile a list of Carers who have children with permanent disabilities. Those on the borderline could be reassessed. I know personally the information I have given to multiple government agencies {Commonwealth Carers, Support agencies, Pioneer Employment agencies} can be accessed & explains clearly that I will be a carer for the rest of my life.

Money needs to be spent. It may be giving it to directly to carers or providing more comprehensive Services & making them known to all carers or a bit of both.

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

Michael & Elizabeth

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