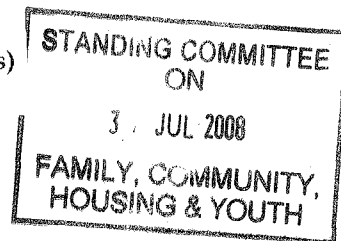


Submission No. 798
(Inq into better support for carers)
ADC 16/7/08



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.

I am submitting to the Inquiry because...

I AM A VOLUNTEER CARER SUPPORT GROUP CO-ORDINATOR AND LONG TIME CARER. OUR GROUP OF APPROX. 30 BELIEVE CARERS ROLES ARE VITAL AND NOT APPRECIATED. WE ALSO SAVE THE GOVERNMENT THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS APPROX. \$40,000+ P.A. PER PERSON THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE IN A NURSING HOME AND A MULTITUDE OF OTHER COST SAVINGS TO GOVT.
 More information is attached on a separate sheet

1. The role and contribution of carers in society

As a carer, I feel that my role is...

GIVING SUPPORT TO PERSONS CARED FOR, TO COMMUNITY & GOVERNMENT. PRACTICAL + FINANCIAL SUPPORT WE ALSO GIVE TO ALL 3 AS IN ABOVE LINE. WE NEED SUPPORT WORKERS WELL TRAINED AND UNDERSTANDING THAT OUR ROLE IS VITAL. OUR ROLE IS DIFFICULT AND MANY OBSTACLES ARE PLACED IN OUR PATHS AS CARERS. MISINFORMATION AND DENIAL OF ASSISTANCE ARE COMMON.
 More information is attached on a separate sheet

2. The barriers to social and economic participation for carers

As a carer, I face the following problems ... RUDENESS, IGNORANCE FROM "SUPPORT" PERSONS. NO WRITTEN INFORMATION FROM CENTRELINK TO CARERS, NO HELPFUL CONTACTS LIST EXISTING. OUR AGES, OUR OWN DISABILITIES AND HEALTH PROBLEMS, ADDED COSTS OF BEING A CARER - eg. PETROL, PHONE CALLS, TIME SPENT COPING WITH BUREAUCRACY.

LACK OF SUPPORT + RESOURCES, HAVE TO GIVE UP WORK EARLY. LACK OF RESPIRE AVAILABILITY & UNRELIABILITY OF PROMISED RESPIRE WORKERS. BUDGETS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, LACK OF CONSISTENCY WITH INFORMATION GIVEN. ISOLATION. CARE RECIPIENT'S RELIANCE ON CARER. NO ONE PERSON TO LIASE WITH AND TOO MANY INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS THAT PASS BUCK + GIVE WRONG INFORMATION. USE BUDGET AS EXCUSES FOR NO HELP. COMMUNITY CARS TOO EXPENSIVE NOW?

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ... MAKING LIFE EASIER TO BEAR AND WORKABLE.
COUNSELLING SPECIFICALLY FOR CARERS, RESPITE, HOME HELP,
GARDENING, LAWNS, HOME MAINTENANCE, TRANSPORT + PHONE COSTS.

BUDGET PRIORITY IS AT EXPENSE OF CARER AND CARE RECIPIENTS.

COMMUNITY CAR TOO EXPENSIVE TO USE. CENTRELINK IS WRONG

INFORMATION, MISINFORMATION, CONTRADICTIONARY INFORMATION

AND DENIAL OF INFORMATIONS SOUGHT. FINANCIAL CONSULTATION

WHILST RESTRUCTURING LIFE TO BE FULL TIME OR PART-TIME CARER WOULD BE TERRIFIC
HELP. TELSTRA MISTAKES CREATE A DANGER AND WORRY. More information is attached on a separate sheet

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

I think the Government can better help carers by ... ASSISTING TASMANIAN CARERS ASSOCIATION TO CONTINUE,
KNOWING CARERS HAVE VERY LIMITED CHOICES AND MORE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL + FINANCIAL
BURDENS + RECOGNISING CARERS FOR THE ROLE THEY PERFORM AND THE WHEN FIRST LOOKING AT CARING

COST SAVINGS THEY HAVE CREATED FOR GOVERNMENT AND BE MORE

REALISTIC ABOUT CRITERIA THAT CARER/ALLOWANCE/PAYMENT

RECIPIENTS ARE ASSESSED UNDER. RECOGNISE IN THE INITIAL STAGES
CARERS HAVING TO CHOOSE CARING FOR A LOVED ONE OR HAVE IT THRUST

UPON THEM + HAVE TO GIVE UP WORK BECAUSE OF IT. CARE IS UNRELIABLE SO
AN EMPLOYED CARER IS OFTEN FORCED TO BECOME UNEMPLOYED DUE TO THIS FACT ALSO.

* THERE IS A HUGE PROBLEM WHEN THE CARER IN LESS THAN A WEEK HAVE HAD
PERSON BEING CARED FOR DIES CENTRELINK BENEFITS CANCELLED, POWER +
PHONE ACCOUNTS REFUSING TO CHANGE BILLING
NAME UNLESS DEATH CERTIFICATE IS PROVIDED. More information is attached on a separate sheet

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

Susan APPROX. (ON BEHALF OF 30 MEMBERS OF OUR CARERS SUPPORT GROUP)
Signature

SUSAN (ST. HELENS SUPPORT GROUP CO-ORDINATOR - VOLUNTARY)
Print your name

1st JULY 2008
Date

Postal Address

Contact Telephone Number