



ACC 16/7108
Submission No. 804
(Inq into better support for carers)

Committee Secretary
Inquiry Intro Better Support for Carers.

I hereby 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 was recently a carer, covering my wife's illness. The strain was immense before she went into a hostel. I found the allowance did not cover either the expenses or the effort involved.

Incontinence created problems where, for a while I had to engage nursing assistance. That alone absorbed all of the allowance.

The Government can help carers by being aware and publishing carers problems in regard to finance, especially and more importantly where carers are relying on a pension as the only means of support.

Assistance is needed in supporting pensioners where they find it necessary to seek employment when the carer is engaged in other activities such as running a household, or helping support a family as well as the cared person

There are organizations which help carers, Neighbourhood Houses and volunteers need recognition and help.

It is also my experience that respite can assist in lessening the stress. Government assistance in this important area would be of immense help.

Some means of attracting doctors to country areas would mean continuity of services, helping carers, because of the expertise required.

CENTRELINK COULD BECOME THE ORGANISATION WHERE CARERS WOULD BE ABLE TO TURN. A PUBLICATION FROM CENTRELINK CONTAINING VALUABLE INFORMATION WHICH COULD INCLUDE :

A list of all bodies where help is available, especially Government Departments.
What finance is available, and where to apply for it, as well as when to apply and when it is likely to run out.

How to apply for respite, and from which organizations.

What nursing services can be used, especially those planned by the Government.

An explanation of accounting services, made simple so that carers can understand them even if they are inexperienced or find difficulties with complicated finances.

Acknowledgement that carers allowances should include amounts covering mobility aids, disability aids, extra travel and difficulties involved, nursing assistance, unusual dietary requirements,

Help which will be available for carers who are housebound.

Thank you for taking the above views into consideration. I look forward to any recommendations you make helping improve the lives of carers in Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Ron

26 06 2006.