

APC 18/7/08

Submission No. 946

(Inq into better support for carers)

Dear Joanna Cash

Thank you for your letter re Carers and the inquiry by F.C.H.Y I would not know how to write a submission properly and as there is no postal address I assume that only computer presentations would be looked at. However I know you take the time to read hand written letters so perhaps you would pass on my thoughts at some stage.

1/ The role of carers is immeasurable. The workload would not be allowed in the work place on grounds of health & safety.

2/ The time & energy spent on basic care and the effects of sleep deprivation leave little opportunity for social or economic participation when caring for a physically dependent person.

3/ To better support carers there should be appropriate financial assistance

but even more urgently there should be practical, hands-on assistance. In theory a carer receives X amount of hours depending on the condition of the disabled relative. In practice there is just not enough to go around. More paid carers must be recruited into the system. An opportunity to solve some of the unemployment problem perhaps.

↳ long term there needs to be specialised residential accommodation for young disabled with full and part-time care available so that carers can resume some of their lives.

Public awareness needs to be raised. Involve big business & universities, science and industry to find better ways of caring for the disabled to make life happier for them and carers.

Perhaps prizes for practical solutions Australia could show the rest of the world how it should be done.

We have resources and clever people in research. Surely some could point in

in this direction. Aged care nursing
homes are not really an option, they
cannot cope with the demands
of multiple disabilities.

Many physically disabled people have very
good minds, perhaps its time to ask them
how things could be done better.

Thank you for your interest