

DOC 21/7/08

Submission No. 961

(Inq into better support for carers)

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 52 years of age and am full time carer for my 25 year old daughter who has schizoaffective disorder. She is unstable and condition changes quickly. I have horrible coping

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...

to provide an environment for my daughter where she feels safe and loved. Supervision with taking of medications, support particularly when she is depressed or suicidal. She cannot manage her money or any of her day to day affairs.

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 ...

I often feel isolated. My daughter's father had bipolar disorder and committed suicide 21 years ago. I try to work but find it difficult as she needs full time care. I am a highly qualified nurse but find myself doing part-time & on call

More information is attached on a separate sheet

My partner and I cannot go out unless she is in hospital or she comes with us. When I work staff sometimes go for coffee afterwards, I have to go straight home after a while they stop asking. I may have to give up work but do not want to.

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

Respite care for holidays or outings (public hospital respite centre not adequate). If she could live independantly in a group home where she had supervision but some independence. I will not live forever what happens after that I worry

More information is attached on a separate sheet

Clock type systems ~~also~~ would be helpful so I could stay in the workplace

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

I think the Government can better help carers by ...

- providing more in home / centre care
- respite care
- carer support line
- financial assistance
- independent housing, group homes for affected people
- low housing loans for carers

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



Signature

Margaret

Print your name

7/07/08