

Submission No. 166
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 26/6/08

Sent: Thursday, 12 June 2008
To: Committee, Reps (REPS)
Subject: RE:Support for carers

I am writing to let you know how hard it is to manage on the little amount that I as a carer for my mother who is 86 and is going down hill fast she has dementia and as her daughter who loves her mother dearly it is so hard watching and listening, and let me tell you that it is even harder for one minute she is ok then she becomes this aggressive other person who is very hard to deal with example ie: Recently she was showing signs of the bacteria that somehow gets into her blood stream and goes to her brain causing her to go insane so I asked her to do a urine sample so we could check and she went crazy, the first time this happened she should have been institutionalize but I nursed her, it was hell for a month. This has happened three times now I have seen the signs and fortunately the doctor has put her on Keflex so it didn't go to her brain once she takes the pills she comes back to her happy self. It is very hard work and you have to have a great deal of patience and understanding. Mum always knew just what she was doing but that is fading and watching it fade is so hard. Seeing the mum I knew fade hurts. My roll is to watch for the symptoms drive her where she needs to go and spend as much time with her as I possibly can, she is always forgetting where she puts things and gets so upset, I calm her and try to make her worry less. I sleep at her home twice a week and worry when I am not with her just incase she does something silly. I have her name down at Grandview but all the while I can keep her where she is, as she loves it there, I will. So please consider how important our roles are surely we are worth more money we get so little and do so much. My name is Christine and I wish my letter to be included in the support for Carers.