

Submission No. 1

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 28/5/08

Sent: Wednesday, 14 May 2008 2:25 PM

To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)

Subject: Policy change- Carers Inquiry

FAO: Chair, House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community,
Housing and Youth
Re: Carers Inquiry

Below is suggested policy change I previously sent to Jenny Macklin. Appreciate your consideration.

I am writing to see if you could please look at a change in a Centrelink Policy relating to Aged Newstart allowance.

I am on aged newstart and will be 64 this december, this requires me to do 15hrs per week voluntary work (which I am doing). Since August 2007 I also receive a carers allowance for looking after my mother who is 93 and has now become legally blind, this requires an additional minimum of 20 hrs per week (for which I normally do around 28hrs)

Centrelink are unable to exempt me from the voluntary work requirement so I can be with my mum when she needs me.

It would be good if my carers responsibility could substitute for the newstart obligation of voluntary work.

The two laws seem like railway tracks and do not interact. this causes a lot of stress at times.

Many thanks for your kind consideration, I know this will not be priority with so many other things to fix first.

Yours sincerley