

Submission No. 4
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 28/5/08

Sent: Saturday, 17 May 2008
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: Better support for carers

17-05-2008

We are parents and unpaid carers of twin 25 year old severely disabled daughters who both have Cerebral Palsy which affects all four limbs and both are wheelchair dependant and reliant on others to feed, dress, bathe, sit in chair and to position in bed including three or four times a night.

Questions regarding CARERS and their Disabled Charges.

Why can a CARER be on Austudy or other payment and not have to account for the care of the disabled person? This payment was suggested to my wife so as to stay within the guidelines of the 25 hour work, study, or volunteer including travel time.

Why are there a restrictive 25 hour work, study and volunteering including travel time attached to CARER payment recipients? If this was altered and a family chose to work would not the government be better off by paying the carer a lower payment. This rule also restricts the right of a carer to volunteer and we think this should not happen, providing the care needs of the disabled person is being met.

Is there any other payment that restricts the recipients right to volunteer?

Is attending church counted in the 25 hour work, study or volunteer rule?

Why does an unpaid carer on an alternate payment like austudy or aged pension miss out on the bonus payments like people who are on carer payment?

Can the Government say that this does not discriminate against the person caring for someone with a disability?

Why do both State and Federal Governments politicize the process with regards to the inability to come to an understanding in the Commonwealth State & Territories Disability Agreement instead of thinking of the CARERS and their disabled charges?

To stop the buck passing by both state and federal governments why should not the responsibility to carers and the disabled be transferred to the federal government as in aged care?