

Submission No. 1049

(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 do it see much hope or light  
 at the end of the day. For each item of  
 support I receive the battle has been immense.

Agencies supply inefficient staff, school supply  
 inefficient staff & support agencies do not have  
 enough staff and I end up being the support person.  
 More information is attached on a separate sheet

1. The role and contribution of carers in society

more funding is needed  
 in all these areas.

As a carer, I feel that my role is...

to aid and promote my son's life and skills,  
 from home base through to his out and about  
 in the general community. To have DHS and  
 like understand that my son will always  
 need a high level of support throughout his life

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 ...

in not enough flexibility and simply not enough  
 hours in respite to be able to participate in a social  
 life. All the hours of and for respite are taken up  
 for my sons programs either from cosnil or flexicare  
 from the agency. Then of course I simply don't have the  
 finances as a general role to participate anyway. I receive a reduced carers payment  
 due to a beach house that I had had years before I married, let  
 alone children that is now heavily valued by cosnil in the  
 past 3 years - by 107.97%??!! that causes grief.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

a better understanding that just because I am at home, I also care for an elderly parent, it is okay for anyone connected with my son's program, flexicare or casual respite, to assume that I will pick up the slack when any or all is cancelled for the day or timed respite. As it is not possible for me to be in "the workforce", I do say I work for the Government, does not reliable pick up a drop of times and sickness of son, I am on duty 24/7 - not many do this - needs better communication + flexible hours of respite.

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

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

Cross speaking to all agencies & groups both government & private may help. Bettering of respite hours that will allow flexibility. To know that Futures for Young Adults will continue, so far, this has changed in funding this year to restrict the broadness of funding. This certainly causes more anxiety across the board including myself - no peace of mind. We need peace of mind. Governments do not give you peace of mind.

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

Dawn

Print your name

1/7/2008

Date