

Submission No. 1115

(Inq into better support for carers)

Doc 29/7/08

To The Honorable Annette Ellis

Re: Inquiry into carers needs

In the year 2000 my son was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia.

At that time I had a job I loved, and also had a partner in my life.

I lost my job.

My partner broke it off with me.

And financially I ended up \$5,000 in debt trying to help my son get his life together.

I also noticed that apart from my closest friends, nobody really wanted to spend time with me.

I was severely stressed.

Not knowing what was going to happen to my son because usually there were no beds in the hospital for when my son needed help.

I had to cope with it on my own.

I don't have money to spend on myself, because one cannot live on the pension without a part time job. So I give what I can out of my pension to keep my son in food, clothing, transport etc. etc. etc.....

I work part time even though I have a physical disability and I am at present looking for more work so I can care for my son and get out of debt, hopefully...

I would like to do a course to better my life but there is no money for that.

I would like to do Qi Gong for my own mental and physical health, but of course there is no money for that.

I would like to do some art course but of course there is no money for that.

I would like to live in the country but there are no facilities so I must stay in the city to tend to his needs.

So I drift in and out of depression, because at times it all seems so hard,

I think it's great that my son has his own accommodation, but I wish there was more support for him.

I spend time caring for my son and I am usually too tired to think of socializing, and of course most people don't want to know because I have a mentally ill son.

Yours Sincerely,

Katie