

AOC 4/18/08

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 BELIEVE THE CARER SYSTEM IS ONE OF THE WORST EVER FOSTERED ONTO AN  
UN SUSPECTING PUBLIC (BY A LABOUR GOVT IN 1992) TWO LIVES ARE DESTROYED - ONE OF  
THESE ARE PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY. THE GOVERNMENT'S COMPLETE LACK  
OF SUPPORT IS INCREDIBLE - DESPITE ITS MASSIVE SAVING OF MONIES  
SYSTEM LACKING FOR YOUNGER CARERS  
40YRS - 60YRS

More information is attached on a separate sheet

1. The role and contribution of carers in society

As a carer, I feel that my role is... SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN DENIGRATED TO THE BOTTOM  
OF SOCIETY, ON A LEVEL WITH WELFARE HAND OUTS AND THE MENTALITY  
THAT GOES WITH IT.

AM UNPAID NURSES AND / RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HANDLING OF DANGEROUS  
MEDICATIONS. IDIOTS WHO HAVE BEEN MENTALLY COERCED  
TO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A LOVED ONE - AND PULLED  
INTO A SITUATION OFFERING NOTHING BUT DESPAIR

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 ...

LOSS OF INCOME, LEADING TO LOSS OF SOCIAL PURSUITS  
NOTHING IS AFFORDABLE ANY MORE, AS EVERY \$ HAS TO BE COUNTED  
EVERY CARER HAS TO GO INTO DEBT - CREDIT CARDS KEEP US GOING

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

DOMESTIC DUTIES TO MAINTAIN DWELLING/CLEANING/WASHING-DRESSING WIFE  
RESPIRE AT AGED CARE HOMES SHOULD BE FREE / NOT TAKE AN PENSION  
FOR EACH PER-NIGHT RESPIRE AS IS THE SYSTEM (NOW)  
MY GREATEST COMPLAINT IS COST OF RESPIRE - I AM ENTITLED  
TO 9 WEEKS A YEAR AND CANNOT USE MORE THAN 2 WEEKS

More information is attached on a separate sheet

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

I think the Government can better help carers by ... ① REALISING THE GREAT HIDDEN  
RISK TO CARERS - MAINLY SUFFER BREAKDOWNS THEMSELVES ESPECIALLY MENTALLY

- ② A CENTRAL POINT WHERE ALL RELEVANT HELP AND INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND  
③ THERE MUST BE FREE CONValesCENT HOMES AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST  
2 YRS OF ILLNESS (I FEEL THE HARDEST TIME)  
④ EVERY CARER SHOULD HAVE A GOVT EMPLOYEE AS A CASE OFFICER FOR DIRECT  
CONTACT IN ANY PROBLEMS AT ANY TIME ⑤ INCREASE FINANCIAL AID FOR  
THE ONGOING INCREASED EXPENSES

More information is attached on a separate sheet

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

Print your name

Peter

Date

30th JUNE 2008

# HEALTH ISSUES / COSTS

## RELATING TO TAKING OF MEDICATIONS

- 1) DRY MOUTH - GUMS / SWEETS REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH THIS  
\$10 - \$20 PER LUMP
- 2) DRY MOUTH LEADS TO DENTAL DELAY - IN 2007 I SPENT  
\$4000 ON FILLINGS + LARGE BRIDGE  
SINCE STROKE IN DEC 2003 - DENTAL BILLS HAVE AVERAGED  
\$2000 PER YEAR.
- 3) SIZE INCREASE - WHEN A PERSON IS WHEELCHAIR BOUND  
THEY CONTINUOUSLY PUT ON WEIGHT THROUGH LACK OF EXERCISE  
MY WIFE NOW 5YRS HAS GONE FROM SIZE 10 - SIZE 16  
EACH DIFFERENT SIZE OVER PERIOD REQUIRED CHANGE OF CLOTHING
- 4) CHANGE OF VEHICLE. OUR CAR WAS NOT OF A SUITABLE  
SIZE TO BE ABLE TO TRANSPORT WIFE TO ALL  
THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES SHE HAS HAD TO UNDERGO  
PHYSIOTHERAPY 2/3 TIMES A WEEK  
SWIMMING POOL EXERCISES etc etc HAVE HAD TO BUY  
A BIGGER CAR.