

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

Submission No. 325  
(Inq into better support for carers)  
A.O.C. 30/6/68

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 am a 70 year old Carer (mother) of my 38 year old son, who has cerebral palsy and is severely disabled - wheelchair bound. My son has been living at home all his life, and my husband and I have had very few holidays, and are both in poor health.

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...

A low paid worker, who has a son to look after 24 hours a day - seven days a week when our son was born there was very little help physically or financial. We had to pay for all his boots & catypas etc. now we do get some help, but it is nothing so what we have to do.

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 ...

If we go out we have to take our son with us, and if we go away, he has to come too. Our daughter takes him for a week each year to give us a break. - she lives in Adelaide - we live in Portland, Vic. We are not well, and I find putting the wheelchair in the car now is quite difficult, and we are just very tired.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

**3. The practical measures required to better support carers**

As a carer, I need help with ...

More long term respite, but more importantly  
we need our son to be in supported accommodation.  
We have cared for him for 38 years, we are in our 70's  
and we need a little bit of life, before we die.

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 ...

Building more accommodation - especially for  
older clients. We worry all the time about what is going  
to happen to him, when we go. I would like to give  
Phillip a petition, and get them to look after him for a  
week or two. They have no idea.

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

Lois  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Print your name

13/6/08  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date