

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. 592  
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 8/7/08

FAMILY, COMMUNITY,  
HOUSING & YOUTH

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 sincerely believe that there is far too little understanding by gov<sup>t</sup> and departments of the issues that confront multi-cultural background carers. Certainly they believe in tight boxes where everything must conform, at least within some Vic Govt departments. But overall, we get "zip" support except

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...

to work WITH other family members, agencies, welfare bodies etc to provide optimum care and support for our loved one. This is usually with extremely limited if any support or funding and the bulk of the caring role placed solely on our shoulders. To ensure health is maintained, all accounts lawfully dealt with, home/property maintained, pets cared for, (and)... so that their environment is maintained

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 ...

- 1) Nasty gov<sup>t</sup> departments (eg Vic Dept of Education) which refuse to recognize the need for a carer to work close to the caree
- 2) Anglo Saxon attitudes that fail to understand that in a close knit ethnic family, carer roles are split and that the eldest son or grandson will have one set of roles and the eldest daughter or granddaughter other roles.
- 3) Lack of money / support from government
- 4) Extremely limited money from gov<sup>t</sup> to relevant welfare agencies e.g. Australian Greek Welfare Society.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

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

As a carer, I need help with ...

- 1) Government department policies and conduct
- 2) Lack of funded agencies, respite care, support services, sufficient day care facilities, sufficient planned activity programs... ie fund more!
- 3) Translated material in different languages
- 4) More nursing homes and qualified staff; the latter demands subsidized courses for carers and staff of relevant welfare units and agencies.

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) see all the foregoing points, especially re how poorly state government departments (federal too ???) fail, abjectly, to support employees who are also carers and who effectively bully them by refusing to act in a supportive role
- 2) (a) - tax discounts/deductions for carers
- 3) (b) - increased funding per above
- 4) (c) - GST free aides for carers
- 5) (d) - communicate with ethnic communities about our very serious issues which are barely covered by existing bodies, outside of our own communities

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,

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Print your name

10 June 2008

Date