

DATE 26-6-08

Dear Secretary

I wish to make a submission to the house of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing & Youth's inquiry into better support for carers.

I am one of many persons here in Bathurst, who care for a loved one. My role in our home is chief cook, cleaner, nurse, maintenance worker and more. I feel over the years, I contributed greatly in taxes, various community work (Voluntary) and also in our church, as well as accepting persons who come to us for help or just a bed or meal at various times.

We have very little time to socialise, nor does our pension allow us to. I feel I am a good "budgeter", for the past 4 years we haven't celebrated social events such as xmas or birthdays.

My husband is a paraplegic, totally dependent on me for everything, over the years I have learnt to deal with pressure sore areas with help from our GP, we receive assistance to some point from district nursing but still have to buy many items not to mention dietary drinks and always fresh meat and vegetables. My husband is 63 years old this month and has lived well beyond his supposed time, whilst he is at home he enjoys a quality of life, and we enjoy each other and the time we have.

We have taken in to our home a 78 year old vision impaired lady and who now has been with us for 7 years, she has no family and was brought up in an orphanage from birth, through ridicule and keeping her self unfit in her unit she was constantly in and out of hospital, now she is very healthy is involved in activities and considers us family, we budget her pension even for her own funeral when such a time occurs, instead of the Government having to deal with her. We also had another lady reside with us 3 years ago who was terminally ill with cancer, no close family near, her wish was to stay with us and not hospital,

I nursed her with assistance from district nursing and her own doctor until she passed away comfortably and stress free in our home. I may add we received no monies for her, only used her pension, we organized her funeral before hand, so again government was not left to deal with her burial. We are all in funeral funds, as its our responsibility.

Here in Bathurst we have a wonderful centre called Evans Community Options, who help assist people like us with outings, supporting with shopping, or daily needs to people who are unable to get around them selves, or even a shoulder to cry on. I pray you continue to support and fund these people, because I know we wouldn't survive without them. They have helped us with equipment that we couldn't afford. I hope I never have to put my husband in a nursing ^{home} or this lady who lives with us, as long as I keep well. Sometimes I long for a nice holiday for a full week with my husband, that cooks or clean and just relax and pick myself up, would be heaven.

We appreciate our country and the system of "pensioners", unfortunately we could not foresee what our future has dealt us.

When we see young and old abuse this system it frightens us, that we the honest ones will also suffer from there conduct.

"Committee" this is not to complain for what we have, but to be assured you'll support us, as I feel we save the government lots of monies by my caring for our household as I do, and its feel we have respect.

Our System provides great comforts for the criminals, drug addicts etc, this was to "lessen" crime rates etc, I feel it has only given them more, I don't see the crime rate lessening.

Department of housing needs to have more power in dealing with young and old who abuse this wonderful system (as we our selves live in one)

and are grateful, we maintain our yards and I feel, keep our home nice.

The

monies they continuously spend on repairs in these places is absurd, the housing should start to strengthen it self, there are ways to combat these inconsiderate people, such as only allowing one "animal" per house hold, if you live off the government then you abide by there rules, strengthen yourself to right this waste.