

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... Over the years I have been a Carer and personally it has been rewarding however the financial and social burden are draining and huge. Life for most families who are carers seem to be forgotten people and they just get on with life the best they can to make the life of the person being care for as pleasant as possible. The Financial burden has not been supported by Governments as they have promised. It appears the authorities hope the Carers will just go away as they do not know how to help. The carers pension and red-tape seems to be saying –don't bother we can't do any more.*

*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 has been very demanding over the years. Time Carers give is unconditional as families needs and welfare of all is considered at all times requiring many hours of love and care. Carers save the Government many thousands of dollars by caring for family members at home. The loss of wages*  
 *More*  
*is never compensated by the authorities as long as they do not have to*

*More information is attached on a separate sheet*

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

*As a carer, I needed help more recently with - 'better in home nursing care'. More dedicated nursing staff for the District Nursing providers where Carers can feel confident that the care being provided is 100% and not having to check that all tasks are being done best of care for the patient. Carers need a break unless family members are able to share the responsibility more, Carers do not get a break. This is vital to the wellbeing of all concerned and the care being provided, if everyone gets tired and cash poor as the benefits are very small, something collapses and health of the Carer begins to fail. Then more expenses occur that is not in the budget. For some assistance with financial planning may help.*

*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 ... Providing better financial support to access key services, accommodation support where renovations are required for a growing family. Transport assistance for some to purchase a vehicle to accommodate the whole family and wheelchair if required. More facilities to aid people to purchase motorised means of transport for independence.*

*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

Clare

Date 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008