

Acc 4/8/08

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.

As a Carer of a son who has Cerebral Palsy, Quadriplegic, Epileptic who is sixteen years of age, puts me in this area that I think that some of my issues and I'm sure it puts the same issues for other Carers that I think needs addressing.

The issue of Independent Living for my son is not just for his future but I think in the long run would help the governments and mine. In having a Housing Loan Scheme for Carers with low fixed rates so that I could buy a house for Stuart so that he would have a decent comfortable place where he is secure and taken care of by me and respite. Also when I get old or pass on, he could still pay with his pension and still he would be able to have a home where other family or respite could take care of him, which would keep housing and loan industry going.

The issue of incontinence for my son is a problem as Stuart gets older and bigger, the nappies get more expensive and I find this area needs more funding as the allowance for this is \$470.00 each year and is nowhere near enough for a mainstream special needed person like my son! Stuart has no control in this area at all and I think that being on a Carer's pension, this area should be at least \$1200.00 a year for I find that this takes up a lot of my income and with the cost of bills, food, petrol etc. I find this hard to manage. The \$470.00 at Stuart's size and age only lasts about three months. This means I have to find about \$1200.00 a year for incontinence items such as nappies, wet ones, towels etc.

I hope that you could address this problem and find it in your hearts to supply more funds especially to people like Stuart that depend on this all year round.

The issue of Superannuation!

This is a big concern for myself as a Carer because of the condition of my son I cannot take on full time work or any work because Stuart is dependant on me having his needs taken care of all the time. I think that with all fairness, Carers should have a Superannuation scheme so that we can have some kind of future as well. In my case, Stuart is 16 yrs old and I'm 46 yrs old this year and I have no superannuation whatsoever. I hope and pray this area really and truly needs to be given consideration! For I as a Carer, have had it very hard and the way I look at it is; I am struggling to provide with all the hardship that goes with raising Stuart and I think we should be given some sort of hope for *our* future as all Carers. We feel that we are an important part of this community and we should never be made to feel as second-rate citizens. I feel strongly about this for we deserve some hope and future for Carers.

Yours sincerely

Roy

Dear Secretary

Dear Secretary

I wish to put forward some ideas for the on-going funding problem that I know our government faces with Carer and Special Needs for the people with disabilities and I hope that they will be of some assistance.

I set up an appeal for a van for my son and fundraised it with a bit of help but mostly on my own incentive. I raised \$41,000 and purchased with the kindness of the community and businesses around Whyalla, a brand new Hiace Toyota van with hydraulics, which I am forever grateful for.

Now in my experience of that I noted that a lot of the town people of Whyalla asked when giving "is this for a local boy and when I said yes, they gave, because they didn't want to give donations to outside communities. Now this made me think "why doesn't the government set up a Carer Disability Fund or Foundation in each "town" so that each town can fund a lot of the money needed for it's own disability problems. This would take the pressure off the individuals who keep donating from our towns and it would also help take away some of the pressure of funding that the government has to find.

Each town could set up its own Carer Disability Foundation and then local businesses and community could put their donations to help their own community.

I also noted that a lot of big businesses e.g. BHP Billton or One Steel, Woolworth's, Coles and industrial companies etc. etc. who would not give to private appeals but will give to charity organizations. So I thought that would be another way of helping Carers if businesses were agreeable to donate money into a proper run Carers Disability Foundation This could then be used locally to maintain equipment, help fund for vehicles, housing upgrading equipment etc. etc.

As the person with the disability gets older he or she needs more equipment or needs upgraded equipment and they also need aid with amusement, social life and other assorted issues. After school finishes it becomes harder on the Carer to have some free time. In Whyalla there is nowhere you can take your disabled child to get a break yourself. Why doesn't each town have a property that's run by respite or a building made out for amusement and have their equipment music, TV, movies, a kitchen etc. so that these people have somewhere to go for a few hours a day. You could have one on one respite or carers looking after them and the mainstream carer can have a break as well.

I think these are important ideas and I hope you can bring some release to some of the Carers and the Disabled people by addressing funding, housing, nappy problem costs and community help, having amusement as well because we all need somewhere to have fun and do things.

Yours sincerely

DATE: 2-7-2008

Full Name: Roy

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.

As a Carer, I feel that my role is ...

THAT INDEPENDENT LIVING  
FOR MY SON WHO'S 16 YEARS OLD  
IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR HIS FUTURE  
AND WOULD BE EASIER ALL ROUND  
TO TAKE CARE OF. BY OTHER SERVICES  
E.G. RESpite, CARERS, & GOVERNMENT

I face the following problems ...

I RENT MY HOUSE IN WYALONG. JUST.  
AND FIND IT VERY HARD TO  
BUY A HOUSE BEING ON A  
CARERS PENSION AS A FULL TIME  
CARER. I THINK THAT TO HAVE  
INDEPENDENT LIVING. I HOPE  
THAT THERE COULD BE BETTER  
HOUSING SCHEMES FOR AFFORDABLE  
LOANS & SET INTEREST RATES FOR  
THIS PURPOSE.

I need help with ...

MORE HELP OR FUNDS IN  
STUARTS INCONTINANCE AS  
HE IS QUADRAPLEGIC, CEREBRAL  
PARALYSIS, EPILEPTIC & AT 16 YEARS  
OLD WE ONLY RECEIVE \$70.00  
FOR THE YEAR WHICH ONLY LASTS  
A FEW MONTHS -

I think the Government can better help Carers by ...

LOOKING AT HOUSING (LOAN SCHEMES)  
INCONTINANCE ISSUE (MORE FUNDS)  
I THINK EVERY TOWN SHOULD HAVE  
ITS OWN FUNDING FOR CARERS NEEDS!

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

Roy  
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