

STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

19 JUN. 2008

FAMILY, COMMUNITY,
HOUSING & YOUTH

A.O.C 27/6/08

Submission No. 241

(Inq into better support for carers)

To the Secretary

Inquiry into Better Support for Carers

Dear Secretary,

I wish to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing & Youth Inquiry into Support for Carers.

My role as a carer is for an 82 year old man with Parkinson, every 4 months we have to go to Brisbane from Bundaberg by train to see Dr Peter on Wickham. Ron can't make the early train at 5 am so we catch a 6-15 am train & have to stay overnight. There is some subsidy from the hospital, still have to pay the rest of the accommodation, plus meals & taxi. This last trip appointment was the 12-6-08. Consequently the Astor Metropol which is the closest hotel

refused to take us as subsidised guests, because it was "State of Origin" on 11-6-08. However we could still have a room for \$180. These rooms are excellent, no reading light etc. Upstairs is beautiful but hospital guests don't get there. We have to go to the "Soho" which is quite a bit further away. Ron can't manage on his own. I feel there should be free accommodation for patients out of Brisbane.

Carers also need more time for themselves. We are allowed 4 weeks respite care, again costing quite a bit. I feel this is not enough. We save the government millions. When you become a carer your own life steps back & is governed by the persons needs. I think this should be recognized by the government & allow at least 6 weeks respite care. I am 73 years old myself & am finding it very tiring as I now have to do all the yard work as well. Some support in this regard would be a big help. Thanking you for taking my views into consideration & forward to reviewing the recommendations made for support carers.

Yours sincerely
Bee