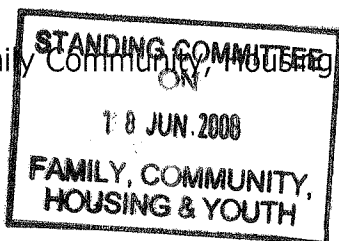


Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra



A.O.C. 30/6/08
Submission No. 247
(Inq into better support for carers)

I wish to make a submission to the House of Representative Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth's Inquiry into Better Support for Carers.

I feel that my role is - DEMANDING & NOT GETTING MUCH SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HELP

I contribute to Australian Society by - KEEPING MY WIFE AT HOME & CARING FOR HER. & NOT PUTTING HER INTO FULL CARE TO BE COVERED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

I face the following problems - ISOLATION SOCIALLY, A LOT OF PLACES & THINGS THAT ARE NOT WHEEL CHAIR FRIENDLY.

I can't fully participate in social life because BECAUSE MY CARING ROLE DEMANDS THAT I BE THERE AT ALL TIMES, & ~~THE~~ MOST TRANSPORT & VEHICLES ARE NOT DISABLE FRIENDLY.

I am financially struggling because of - THE MONEY THE GOVERNMENT PAYS TO CARERS FOR FULLTIME IS ONLY HALF OF WHAT I EARNED IN A WEEK, THE COST OF LIVING & THE COST OF NAPPIES FOR MY WIFE'S INCONTINENCE (ALTHOUGH WE GET \$500 FROM PAMP) DOES NOT GO FAR IN COVERING COSTS. THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WE CARERS SAVE THE GOVERNMENT BY KEEPING THEM AT HOME & NOW THEY ARE CUTTING THE ONE OFF BONUS PER YEAR.

I would like to work (full time or part time) but have the following issues

I CANNOT WORK PARTTIME DO TO THE
FACT I AM NEEDED TO DO THE THINGS
AT HOME etc. - WASHING, IRONING, SHOPPING,
HOUSE WORK, LAUNDS + GARDENS. PLUS
LOOKING AFTER MY WIFE - EATING, DRESSING, BATHING etc.

I worry about my future because -

THE COST OF LIVING KEEPS GOING
UP; THE CAREING BECOMES MORE
DEMANDING; BUT THE GOVERNMENT
SUPPORT STAYS THE SAME.

The things that stress me the most about being a carer are NOT KNOWING
WHAT LIES AHEAD, FINANCIALLY OR EMOTIONALLY
IN CARING FOR SOMEONE IF SOMETHING WAS TO
HAPPEN TO ME.

I think the government can better help carers by - PROVIDE THEM MORE
FINANCIAL & EMOTIONAL SUPPORT.

Regards

e H A R I S

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.