

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

A.O.C. 2/7/08

24 JUN 2008

FAMILY, COMMUNITY,  
HOUSING & YOUTH

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...

I am caring for my wife who has Bi Polar disorder. Also I manage our own business x look after our two young girls. We have no family here and very limited help

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 is...

To be a Father, Mother x mediator for our children. To be a medical specialist for my wife. A councillor for the entire family. A target for blame when my wife is ill from her family as they blame me for her illness

More information is attached on a separate sheet

**2. The barriers to social and economic participation for carers**

As a carer, I face the following problems ...

Trying to stretch myself to please everyone x to keep our girls as grounded x normal as possible. Having all the responsibilities that were shared by a couple. Finding it very hard to have a life and also being able to share it with my now very distant wife.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

Day to day living issues. There is limited assistance for me when my wife is away in hospital, but plenty for her when she returns home. Little things like household chores etc. While I am at work being done just to take the pressure off me when I get home & still have to do all the usual things. include having fun with the girls

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 ...

Recognising that we save them millions of dollars a year by doing what we do. We all know there is funding available. So maybe use it by allocating set amount at a time in giving carers the help they need when they need it. It is still employing people to do the work

More information is attached on a separate sheet

\* I would like to add that our children have been given a great opportunity with TAS Kids Club "Dianne". Please fund that more. Thank you.

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

David

Print your name

19-6-08

Date