

Submission No. 586

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 8/7/08

From: Denise
Sent: Monday, 30 June 2008 3:18 PM
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)

Subject: submission for Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth.

Dear Parliamentary Secretary,

My sister and her husband have an intellectually handicapped son, just turning 30, and a daughter, 28.

I have watched the heartache and frustration of this family for many years. The marriage has suffered and nearly ended several times, and the children have suffered for that too. It is basically a happy family unit, and they do the best they can. Both parents work, and out of hours, spend many hours trying to better the life of their son. My niece has a separate life now, but is still active within the family and the carer under future "will" conditions.

My nephew has a part time job in a sheltered workshop, and longs for more independence. He is frustrated and "acts out" this frustration from time to time. He believes he is too old to be at home with his parents. He is intellectually handicapped, but not stupid. Most aren't.

To this end, his parents work endlessly with other parents in their area to try to establish cluster housing in their area – a safe, secure environment where the people can forge a life of self respect for themselves, while keeping close ties with their families, who love them. It is not institutionalising them. It is providing for their specific needs and can be done with good planning, understanding and compassion.

Ensuring their son is settled and as self-sufficient as he can be is their goal, giving him the opportunity to be the best that he can be.

Kind Regards,
Denise