

Submission No. 608

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 8/7/08

To The Inquirers:

My wife and I have been Carers for at least 15 years. We have four sons: One 28 with Schizophrenia on a DSP; one 25 with Schizophrenia on a DSP; one 27 with Fragile-X/Autism/OCD/suspected Schizophrenia/Developmental Delay on a DSP and another son 22 not living with us who has two sons. Our young sons on DSP's have serious issues with medication side effects including gross overweight problems.

In addition I am a Carers Advocate for Schizophrenia Fellowship NSW and a Carers Representative for SWAMHS, attending regular meetings 3 times a month, symposiums and forums on Carers issues.

As if that isn't enough.

We know and appreciate you know and appreciate our difficult life. Thank you.

Now here are some REAL ways you can help us financially!

1. Keep and increase the Carers Payment/Supplement annual one-off lump sum so-called "Bonus". It helps enormously buying big ticket items interest free.
2. Increase the fortnightly Carers Payment buy about \$100 per fortnight starting immediately without any further ado.
3. Set up a Super Fund for Carers just like as for any other members of the Workforce. Carers should get a well earned rest after years of toil and heartache above and beyond the call of normal duty.
4. We are currently paying \$40 insurance per fortnight for basic funerals for anyone of us. We feel this should be shouldered by the Commonwealth Govt.
5. We are currently paying Market Rent with Housing NSW. This should be dramatically lowered. We also now pay for our water usage.

Thanks for your time.

We will thank you even more when all the above are fully realized IN FACT.

Yours Sincerely,  
Brent and Debbie  
Carers