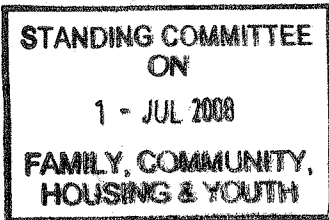


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Secretary

I am making this submission as a Carer – hoping that my experience may be of some value.

I have been a Carer for 25 years. I am 86 and my role is to support my son of almost 60 years. He now lives in a Residential Lodge and is capable in many aspects, but life is hard for him as he suffers from diabetes and depression. I am constantly in a nervous state as he may need me at any time. See Appendix 1 for examples.

Accommodation such as his Lodge cannot supervise medication, personal hygiene, or security. Lodges although quite good should be accredited or at least registered. If more support workers were trained and funded – there would be huge benefits for all concerned. Many Carers would be able to enjoy some space and time for themselves. Carers have always saved the Government much money. (For example, my husband and I set up a house for mildly disabled people for a period of twelve years giving a home to 14 residents – at our own cost.)

This submission is a plea to help Carers which in turn helps the mentally and physically disabled..

Thankyou for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committee's Inquiry. I look forward to reviewing any recommendation you make to improve life for Carers in Australia.

Yours sincerely

Signature Jessica

Date 28. 6. 2008

Postal Address

Contact Telephone number

Appendix 1

Examples of needs I am involved in:

- Taking him to hospital or organising the CAT Team or an ambulance when he is experiencing psychotic experiences and depression
- Taking him to medical appointments and pathology visits for diabetes and general ill health
- Counselling and motivating him daily (sometimes several phone calls or visit daily) to save him from going into depression
- Managing his finances
- Managing his interests for example, making sure he has sufficient social outings each week
- General regular small crises that need attention immediately, for example lost of wallet through carelessness – this involves putting a stop in bank cards etc.