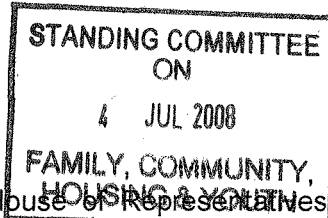


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

A.O.C. 14/7/08
Submission No. 708
(Inq into better support for carers)



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 have cared for my husband for about 10 years. He suffered from Parkinson's Disease. Richard died in Kerana Nursing Home on May 1st 2008.

The transition from my care to Kerana was very difficult

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... - was

As a 24 hour day, 7 days a week my role was to protect and care for his needs. As the P.D. progressed so did those needs escalate and become more demanding both physically and emotionally.

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 ...

As a carer one becomes housebound & gradually out of touch with community & social life outside the home. Friends & acquaintances hesitate to call - it can be very lonely - you have nothing to talk about anyway.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

Information regarding the breadth of
support available - ? Centre link ?
Understanding of how difficult it can be
to have to ask for help if used to being
independent.

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 ...

Urgent need for some sort of coordination
between the separate agencies & sources
of financial & respite availability.
I am finding out more since Richard
died.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

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

Judith E...
Signature

JUDITH
Print your name

02-07-08
Date

Postal Address

Contact Telephone Number

Enclosure with "Carers enquiry".

- * On admission to Karana Nursing home, Richard seemingly ceased to be my husband and became the property of the Nursing home. After many years of caring for Richard & 53 years of marriage, I knew his idiosyncracies - his likes & dislikes - and was able to interpret his often difficulties with speech.
- No credence was given to my understandings.
- In these later stages of his illness, the erratic gestures associated with PD were interpreted as aggression & the rigidity in his limbs was seen by members of staff as resistance.
- Some form of understanding of particular disabilities should be a compulsory form of training for aged care workers.

Carers should be respected & their information should be accepted rather than ignored.

→ apologise for the writing above

Jul.