

**Vietnamese Carer Social Support Group**  
**Carer & Chairperson for the submission:** \_\_\_  
Group Support Coordinator: Tanja Bernardini,  
Bicultural Worker: Loc Nguyen, \_\_\_

Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth  
PO Box 6021  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

30.06.2008

Dear Secretary

We 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.

As a Carer, I feel that my role is ....

Stressful, important and valuable in and to the community.

I face the following problems ...

There is too much paperwork to fill in and too many reassessments to be done even when the existing disability or illness won't change or improve. Emergency respite is not available when carer needs to go to hospital themselves. Often interpreters are not present even if request has been previously stated. Carer waited 8 years for Disability Services Commission to assess child. Once the assessment was done the Carer was told that the child was too old to access therapy as only early intervention therapy was available. No Disability Services support for high functioning autism – parents/carers are left to deal with alone to deal with the problems.

I need help with ...

More respite across "the board". Financial support for the care recipient and their special needs. Long term financial security for the carers (missing out on superannuation and better paid jobs).

I think the Government can better help Carers by ...

Better recognition of the caring role by better supporting carers with

- Providing more therapy for people with disabilities
- More flexible approach when assessing people and their care needs
- Breaking the language barriers (Vietnamese Carers often can't understand information provided, often there is no interpreter available apart from when care recipient is in hospital, carers feel that often interpreters do not have enough knowledge of medical terminology and as a result decide themselves to leave information out – Interpreters often don't have enough skills and our complaints don't get picked up).

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  
Vietnamese Carer Group  
Chairperson on behalf of Group:

Signature:  
Name in typing:

NGOC THUAN QUACH

