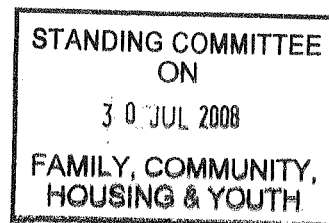


Submission No. 800.1
(Inq into better support for carers)

23 July 2008

MC 48108

Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family, Community, Housing and Youth
P. O. Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra Act 2600



Dear Committee Secretary,

Supplement Submission for
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers

I have just been informed by Centlink that I will be receiving the Carer's Allowance and a one off payment for Carers of \$600.

I am on a disability pension.

Because I am not on a Carer's Income Support Pension, I will not be receiving the \$1,000 Carer Payment.

I feel this is discriminatory.

I do the same work as a Carer, despite of my disability.

I feel I am entitled to the \$1,000 Carer Payment.

I feel this is an anomaly.

I am being disadvantaged because I did not switch from a disability support pension to a Carer's Income Support Pension.

I hope this Committee will address this anomaly.

When I handed my Carer's Allowance application forms into Centlink I was told since my mother had been an Australian Citizen for such a long time, no further ID was required.

Centlink has now written to me, that I now need to provide further documentation about my mother.

My mother is too old to drive, so she does not have a driver's license.

The ID required needs to be from the approved ID list. What ID list? I was not sent an approved ID list. Further I am advised that I failed to provide the additional I.D. information within the specified time frame. I never received such request previously, so how could I have failed to do so, if I was not notified to do so, in the first place.

The latest request contradicts what I was told when I handed my 18 page completed application for a Career's Allowance to Centrelink.

At the time I had provided:

- 1) - My drivers license
- 2) - My Credit Card
- 3) - My Medicare Card
- 4) - My Centrelink Disability Support Pension Card as well as my mother's Pension Card
- 5) - Medicare Card and Australian Naturalization Certificate.
- 6) - Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration
- 7) - I have contacted Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration and apparently we need to provide identification documents to obtain a certificate from them.

The treadmill of going round and round in circles never ends. The system is driving me crazy.

The burden of proof is overwhelming.

I should let the government look after my mother but then I would have to complete another set of application papers, which I could not handle at this point in time.

Yours sincerely

The highly paid bureaucrats who devised such a complex system, the complexity certainly ~~disallows~~ Career's from applying for a Career's Allowance Payment. Congratulations to the system!

THE MANY Thank you for reading my additional submission, NB: Other Career's I have spoken to, tell me they are not applying for Career's Allowance because it is too complicated.

Centbelink

Also questions from the form SA1336.6712, "Claim for Carer Payment and/or Carer Allowance, Caring for a person 16 years or over," resembles more of a Census information collection data form, than a Carer Payment or Carer Allowance form. For example questions like;

question 10 - Do you wish to receive reminders and important information via SMS or email from Centbelink?

followed by,

question 14 - What is the reason for not wanting to use this service?

Do not trust the internet

Do not have a mobile phone

Do not have the technology

Other Give reason.....

question 41 - Tax partner's sex

Male

Female

question 51 - Did your partner start living in Australia before 1965?

It appears to me that Centbelink has become a de facto census ~~collected~~ data collection agency, except the data is retained along with the individuals identity.

If a person wishes to apply for the Carer's Allowance/Payment, that person needs to answer the questions posed above.

I feel that questions posed above intrude into a person's privacy.