

DOC 18/7/08

**Submission No. 929**  
(Inq into better support for carers)

Irene

1<sup>st</sup> July 2008

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 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 feel that my role as a Carer for my spouse who suffered from Bipolar illness for the last 20 odd years has not been support by the Government, especially from a non English background. I'm a sole Carer without any outside help.

The things that stress me the most about being a Carer are not enough information given to me while my spouse was in and out of hospital, no follow up when he was discharge from hospital since 1981 when our eldest daughter was borne. No case Manager or Social Worker to support me when I have had to look after my two young daughters and mother-in-law. I have no ideas there was support for Mental Illness's Carer.

I need help with my spouse when was high(mood swing) in 2003 drinking and driving Requested the Doctor to admit him to hospital without success I was told they were unable to admit him with his consent. I told them how could he when he was drunk. I beg them and they still refused then I told them if they still refused I will contact Current Affairs to bring my case forward. They came the next day to Schedule him in To Greenwich Hospital for 3 weeks, when he was discharge he was followed up by the Case Manger to see he was okay. Then I was refer to Carer's Australia for support. I find very difficult to access help from Home care and other services.

I'm still working part-time 4 days a week to give me a break while my spouse is at home on his own during the day. I wish the Committee to have more support for all Carer from different background. I am trying to study and need support I'm the sole Care for my Partner.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irene".

Irene