



A.O.C. 12/6/08
Submission No. 37
(Inq into better support for carers)

Meg

3 June 2008
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family Community Housing and Youth

Dear Secretary,

I wish to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family Community Housing and Youth inquiry into better support for Carers.

I'm afraid that the person I cared for has recently passed away but I would like to make the following comments on how I found my role as a Carer.

I felt that my role was making sure my husband was comfortable, and received all medical assistance for his condition. My husband was on dialysis and a diabetic.

I contributed to Australian society by being as independent as I could in taking my husband to the medical treatments required.

I faced the following problems of getting him motivated to be involved in something, checking the medications as he was on so many, physical assisting him in getting dressed each day.

I could not fully participate in social life because my life revolved around dialysis. Needing to book 6 months in advance for a vacancy for dialysis before committing to making holiday plans.

I was financially struggling due to cost of petrol to attend dialysis and the purchase of diabetic foods. I did work full-time for a while but had to leave when my husband's illness increased.

I worried about my future because I could not always cope with his illness.

The things that stressed me the most about being a Carer were; knowing he depended on you to do the necessary things, arranging respite with family members to leave for a few days.

I needed help with having someone available to stay with my husband when I needed to do errands, even though he could look after himself its knowing that someone is there talking to him and I think that people support would have been the best solution for me

I think the Government can better help Carers by providing ongoing funds to a Carers program that address the loneliness that clients are in; taking Carers and their clients out of the house. Providing some tender love and care.

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'