



Submission No. 41
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 12/6/08

Committee Secretary
Standing Cttee. on Family, Community Housing + Youth.

Dear Secretary,

I wish to make a submission to your Committee's inquiry into "Better Support for Carers."

I feel that my role as carer for my 87 year old veteran husband is undervalued by the government. I contribute to Australian Society by keeping him out of a costly institution. The carer's allowance hardly even pays for help in cleaning the house yet I have to drive him everywhere to doctors, psychologists, haircuts, podiatrist etc & the cost of running a car is growing by the minute.

My social life is greatly diminished as he cannot be left alone for long periods as he is very frail and has recently had two falls one resulting in a broken leg. It is difficult to make ends meet as we have to live on our modest superannuation.

I am unable to work (2.) as I am 75 and suffer from arthritis of the shoulder, hips and knees and anyway I have earned a rest after working for years as a housewife and bringing up a family at the same time.

I worry about my future as I am finding that I have to think for two people all the time and I need a break from time to time and I get no help with running the house and looking after the garden.

I need help in caring for my husband because he cannot safely be left on his own. He has switched off the freezer and switched on both the heating system and the cooling system at the same time. I need to have some substitute carers to keep him company when I am out. He refuses to go to day care so I need people who will come to the house. If the carers allow me

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were increased I could expect to
pay for extra help.

It is difficult for a man who
has held down a senior position
in geochemistry & who served in
the army from the age of 18-24 to
admit that he can no longer do
all or any of the things that he
used to be able to do to accept
that he now needs help.

Thank you for considering my views
in your inquiry. I look forward
to hearing of any recommendations that
you can make to improve life for
those of us who care for family
members which keeps them out of
expensive government institutions
yours faithfully
Pauline