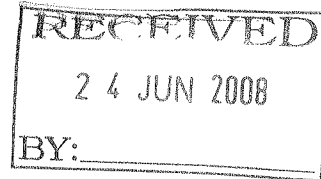


Submission No. 1260

(Inq into better support for carers) /mc
21/6/08



27 June 2008

Marianne

Ms Annette Ellis MP
Committee Chair
Inquiry into Better Care for Our Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Ellis

As a Carer, I wish to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth's Inquiry into Better Care for Our Carers.

As a carer, I provide the following support ... *to my elderly, frail mother who has had a mild stroke. I wash & dress her as she can't use her left hand. I help her move about from bed to chair, car, wheelchair as she can't walk without assistance.*
I face the following problems ...
I am tired to looking after my mother & it restricts me being able to work, to meet friends, to go out or on holidays with my husband. I can't visit family as easily.
I can't fully participate in social activities because *I can't leave her unattended as she can't take herself to the toilet or walk by herself. If she were to try, she would fall & maybe break something.*
I am tired to the house.
I am financially struggling because of ...

I need help with ... *Someone to look after her needs & keep her company while I work or socialise with family & friends & take part in community activities.*

I would like to work (full-time or part-time) but have the following issues to deal with ...

I can't leave her unattended on her own in the house, even when asleep in case she decides to get up & falls over.

I need assistance to ... *Cools after my frail, elderly mother*

I worry about my future because ... *now as we approach our retirement, our plans to spend time together as a couple, travelling etc. will be significantly affected by being tied to the house & looking after my mother*

I think the Government can better help Carers by ... *promoting care in the home as well as in Day Centres & Respite Care.*

Thank you for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committee's Enquiry. I look forward to reading the report and reviewing any recommendations you make to improve life for Carers in Australia.

Yours sincerely

Marianne