

Submission No. 368
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 2/7/08

From: Joseph
Sent: Monday, 23 June 2008 2:50 PM
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: Submission to the above Committee

Joseph

Dear Sir/Madam,

Your Committee has called for submissions and I would like to respond as follows.

I care for my 98 year old mother who is somewhat frail and suffers from frontal lobe dementia. We are fortunate in that we receive an EACH package, not perfect but perhaps a lot better than some. This provides us with someone to shower my Mother Mondays to Friday and to spend an hour helping with the housework. On Wednesdays she stays 4 hours when I have respite.

Respite might mean my going to the doctors. There is not a lot you can do in four hours. Another source of respite is from my support group but I keep that to the minimum as others might need it more and I try to make a donation to try to cover some of the expenses. I have a subscription to the Ensemble Theatre and go there about 8 times a year little other respite except for the 63 days permitted in the EACH package and I do not take all that time I need a hip replacement and I will need to fit that in there somewhere.

There are things that concern me about the future, What if I die before my mother (I have seen some awful Nursing homes)? If my Mother has to go in to a nursing home will I still be able to live in the House (it is in her name although I have spent a lot of money on it). I also worry that if Mum has an accident I could be charged with Manslaughter or murder.

Finance is another problem at on stage Mum was taking medication that cost \$195.00 per month (not on PBS) so see last paragraph if I failed to supply it. I do not like using Mum's Money as I believe She has left that to my sister (who only has the pension) and financially life has not been kind to her.

I could do with help in some places a couple of ramps would not go amiss and we have trouble getting Mum over the rather high step in the bathroom, in fact if I had the money I would have the bathroom remodelled.

Finally, the one place that I really would appreciate help is when Mum could do with a nurse and not have to go to the doctor and for carers to be informed as to what medical aids to help are available to help in maintain the comfort and health of the person we care for.

Education is also most important and I do not know how I would have survived without a support group, it was from there that I found out so much, often from the other members. I think dementia should be discussed in schools so that children are not afraid of old people who are a bit 'funny'.

Yours faithfully
Joe

23/06/2008