

APC 21/7/08

Supplementary Submission No. 368.1

(Inq into better support for carers)

From: Joseph
Sent: Friday, 4 July 2008 1:37 PM
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: Attention Inquiry into better support for Carers

I care for my 98 yo deemented mother at home.

I would like to stress the importance of a support group which lets carers know that there are others in a similar position to themselves. And they can also find out the many things that are already available to carers.

One problem that does not receive adequate attention is that many carers are troubled by guilt and feel uncomfortable even taking a little respite. I had much trouble my self.

Next, some people who are sent to help us under various programs are not really suitable for this type of work. They don't understand the aged and/or dementia. Not that they are bad people just not trained properly.

Further in New South Wales the State Government has spent a lot of money putting in lifts at railway stations but unfortunately ther is no place to let down passengers and if necessary unload wheel chairs even though the Railway staff are able to help from the platform to the train.

Pushing wheelchairs any distance is not an option as the carer may also have problems.

Often it is difficult to find a doctor who is understanding and helpful in the early stages of dementias and medication is rether hit and miss.

Finally, and this is personal we live on a very busy road and helpers who come to the house are very concerned frightened by the traffic. It is hard to park in the driveway as there is a telegraph pole right next to it. I wrote to the Council and my Local member but was eventually told it was too expensive. Yet recently the RTA spent money on double glazing our home (not requested).

When one of the people who come to shower my Mum parked on the Footpath, she was fined \$77 and no amount of pleading would let the fine be waived.

Thank you for allowing me to get these things off my chest.

Yours faithfully
Joe

7/07/2008