



Submission No. 382

(Inq into better support for carers)

Marcia

A.O.C. 2/7/06

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To Whom It May Concern:

My Role as a Carer:

I contribute to society by freeing up other services such as Blue Nurses, Oz Care, Respite Centres, Community Nursing services etc. by being a carer on a '24 hours 7 days' basis for my husband who has all of the following ailments.

DIABETES	PULMONARY HTN	COPD	DM ₂
POLYCYTHAEMIA RUBRA VERA	CHRONIC LEG ULCERS	NEPHROTIC SYNDROME	CHRONIC HYPERKALAEMIA
DVT – Right Leg			

I have had to learn how to treat and cope with the problems arising almost on a daily basis from one or more of these ailments, i.e. treatment of ulcers and special diets, transportation to and from Pathology, Hospital and Doctors. The cost of transportation alone is quite high as it is on a daily basis, sometimes multiple daily trips.

My caring role affects my life because it is quite difficult both financially and mentally and it places a burden on our expenses as we exist on a pension and with the price of fuel, it is more than difficult to make ends meet. I am unable to procure work to contribute to our financial situation as it is a '24 hour 7 day' job being a carer. What Government help we get financially does not cover our costs involved.

The practical measures that would support me best would be more financial assistance. The Grants given to pensioners is unfair in how it is paid. A single pensioner or carer gets the same as a couple which is unfair as the couple has two mouths to feed, clothe and generally go about existing. Some type of extra payment should be considered for carers in a position such as mine.

There would be much more I could tell you, but I thank you for the opportunity of submitting my initial views and problems.

Yours sincerely

Marcia