

Committee Secretary  
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,  
Community, Housing and Youth  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission No. 454  
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 2/7/08

HOUSING & YOUTH

Dear Secretary

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

I am submitting to the Inquiry because... I've been a carer for over ten years. I cared for my mother-in-law who suffered with chronic psychosis & dementia. My mother shifted from S.A. over five years ago - she'll be 92 in July; very frail.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

1. **The role and contribution of carers in society**

As a carer, I feel that my role is...

to support my mother at the farm until she dies. That is her wish & mine also. To provide the best care, give her the life style she enjoys & happiness. This is more personal than commercial enterprise.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

2. **The barriers to social and economic participation for carers**

As a carer, I face the following problems ...

Lack of freedom & time to myself.  
Interrupted sleep - tiredness  
Alteration to provide suitable invalid diet.  
Distance from town.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

**3. The practical measures required to better support carers**

As a carer, I need help with ...

More in-home respite.

Increase in allowance to carers.

Attend Information Days.

Workshops covering the different & difficult stages of caring.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

**4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices**

I think the Government can better help carers by ...

Payment - regardless of Income & Assets; equivalent to a pension.

Continue the annual bonus.

More assistance with bed-ridden patients.

Depression & grief counselling.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

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

Yours sincerely

Print your name

KATHLEEN

Date