



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

Submission No. 491
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 7/7/08

Dear Secretary,

This is a submission about better Government support for carers.

Who am I? I was the primary carer for my intellectually disabled step-daughter with kidney failure for about 20 years. My elderly husband was recently diagnosed with epilepsy, and I have also cared for my elderly sister-in-law for a time.

One thing that would really help, is ready access to free counselling over the phone or in person at my own home. This would be great after a diagnosis, death or other crisis. A counsellor from Carers Australia who is equipped to listen, be understanding and provide guidance would be ideal. I would like them to know and advise me of the services available in my own local area.

Could the Government help carers financially when a disabled person goes into residential care? I used to get Carer Allowance when my step-daughter was living at home, but when she went into care, it cut out (just when we needed it most).

Could the Government provide places for the disabled aged between 18 and 50, that give quality care and are not too expensive? Because my step-daughter had both intellectual and physical problems, the only places suitable for her were aged care facilities. She could not work, and the Department of Human Services had nowhere for her, because she had a caring family!

Thank you for your concern. I look forward to hearing about any recommendations you make to improve life for carers.

Yours sincerely,

Annette