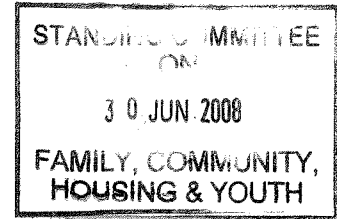


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



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...

My husband suffers from Alzheimer's disease and as time passes he is needing more and more looking after which I often find difficult as I have my own health problems

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 help my husband lead as normal a life as possible and live with me as long as I can cope. I need help with this as he is capable of doing fewer things than he used to and I cannot fit much more into my schedule

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 ...

I cannot drive so I have to rely on other people so that we can participate in some of our former hobbies. It costs money for day activity centres which help fill in my husband's time but I have problems motivating him to participate.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

maintenance of our home and garden. The carer's Allowance helps only partially with expenses. If I want respite, it seems that this has to be planned months in advance and that's not always feasible. How do I find inexpensive suitable respite for me?

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 ...

Budgeting for more specialised premises for all types of disabilities and easier access to any programmes. Carers Australia do their best but are limited by lack of funds. An increased carer's Allowance would allow pensioners to afford available services

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

MARGARET

Print your name

23-06-2008

Date