

Submission No. 623
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 8/7/08

27 June 2008

Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2060

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 the primary carer for my intellectually disabled 20 year old son, Cameron, who has Down Syndrome and due to the constant care required by Cameron, this puts strain on his me to fulfil my role as full-time carer for Cameron, and continues to negatively impact on the quality of life for me and the rest of Cameron's direct family. This has a great impact on my role as carer and places a large amount of stress upon myself to adequately attend to my other three son's needs.

I contribute to society by holding down part-time employment and supporting three other sons. This has been made increasingly difficult as in February 2008, I suffered a stroke and now have paralysis on my left side.

I have always been fully supportive throughout Cameron's education programmes within Primary and Secondary Special Education Units in Dalby. It is my long-term goal for Cameron to actively engage in some form of employment and obtain appropriate accommodation.

Unfortunately, Cameron has not been able to obtain employment and is required to reside with me and my family. We have made inquiries within the Dalby area in relation to the availability of suitable housing or units. Two bedroom units start at approximately \$300,000.00 and houses within the \$400,000.00 range. As Cameron is reliant on his Disability Pension, the possibility of Cameron purchasing suitable housing is not an option. Rental housing and flats range from \$250.00 upwards per week, all of which appear to be out of my son's reach.

Dalby is in desperate need of appropriate supported accommodation, where my son and other adults with disabilities in the Dalby area could be gradually introduced into living skills which would enable them to live independently. The provision of this type of accommodation is long overdue and necessary to provide support and assistance to their carers.

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

Yours sincerely