

Submission No. 739
(Inq into better support for carers)

AOE. 14/7/08

[June 29 2008]

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.

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

A Mother, Teacher, Companion, Helper, Protector and Assistant to my child. And to my Mother I am her helper, feeder, and assistant in everyday living.

I face the following problems ...

Limited time to look after my child with a disability, Mother who is very limited and the rest of my family. It is also very costly financially and emotionally and there are days when you just don't know how you are going to cope.

I need help with ...

Better services including learning centers or schools tailored for children with needs, particularly ASD children, where they will get an education and not just be a day centre. Better financial support for carers as most of the time a carer can not work due to the time necessary for caring for others, and many services provided by carers are straight from their own pocket. Emotional support such as counseling for when it just gets too much.

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

Financial support. Education support for children with needs. Subsidised or funded school programs for children with ASD. Better taxation relief for carers and for medical expenses incurred in caring for children or adults with needs. Ongoing mental and physical health plans such as the current Medicare plans without the limitations and waiting lists.

One important thing to consider is that the more we can do for our children with needs now (particularly children with ASD) as far as some of the suggestions above, the more independent they will be in the future and the less resources they will require when they are independent. THE TIME IS NOW.

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

[L]
[Liz]