

Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing & Youth  
House of Representatives

Doc 17/7108

Dear Secretary,  
I wish to make a submission on the above.

**Submission No. 901**  
(Inq into better support for carers)

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

To care for my husband (suffering chronic illnesses and PTSD) to give him the best quality of life he can have and manage his pain levels as best I can.

I face the following problems....

I need two of me to cover everything I need to do. My husband will not take any respite ( he's not having a stranger into the house) therefore I have a caring role 24/7. Being on a pension, I have to be very careful with out money in regards to paying a tradesman to do things.

I need help with....

'Manly' things mainly (I need bigger muscles, I think), mowing the lawn, doing edges, cleaning gutters, trimming trees, removing twigs and branches that fall. Etc We currently have our house on the market and will have to move not because we want too, but because it is just too much for me to manage. I do what I can, but I am having problems with my health now, apart from stress related stomach problems, I now have trouble with my knees.

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

Allowing home help to do some of these tasks formally performed by my Husband. Health cover in regards to ancillary products, eg glasses, would also help financially ease the burden. When my husband in hospital in Perth, I am expected to cover all my accommodation expenses myself. Due to his problems, he goes to hospital in Perth, (he is too complicated for staff at Bunbury hospital) about 6 times a year, his last stay being 7 weeks. Please help us to give our loved ones the quality of life that they and us deserve.

Yours faithfully,  
Susan