

30th JUNE 2008

Submission No. 924

(Inq into better support for carers)  
AOC 18/7/08

DEAR SECRETARY,

ENCLOSED IS A SHORT HISTORY,  
OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, OF MY BATTLE TO  
REMAIN THE CARERS PENSION / ALLOWANCE FOR LOOKING  
AFTER MY MOTHER.

IF I HAD NOT PERSISTED WITH HER CARE SHE  
MAY HAVE DIED OF A HEART ATTACK OR STROKE

THE REACTIVE, NOT PROACTIVE, NATURE OF  
CENTRELINK AND THE REDESIGNING OF THE CARERS &  
DISABILITIES PENSION APPLICATION FORMS & THE APPEAL  
PROCESS TO EXCLUDE APPLICANTS AND FORCE THEM ONTO  
NEW START ALLOWANCE SO THAT THEY ARE THEN COERCE  
TO FIND ONE HOUR OF PAID WORK A WEEK TO LOWER  
THE UNEMPLOYMENT STATIC FOR POLITICAL PROPAGANDA  
FOR THE LIBERAL PARTY, I THINK, IS A FORM OF  
POLITICAL TERRORISM.

I HAD THE PENSION RESTORED LAST WEEK  
NOT BEFORE I HAD DEPLETED MY PERSONAL SAVINGS,  
THEN PENSIONER DISCOUNTS REMOVED FOR UTILITIES  
& CAR REGISTRATION AND ALSO THE P.B.S. REMOVED.  
FOR A SHORT TIME, I ASSUME TO PUT FINANCIAL  
PRESSURE ON ME.

THE P.B.S. REMOVAL WAS PARTICULARLY GALLING  
TO ME AS I HAVE A RANGE OF AILMENTS WHICH  
I SUCCUMBED TO IN MY ROLE AS A CARER FOR  
MY FATHER FOR MANY YEARS.

I CONSIDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES A DIRECT  
ATTACK ON ME AND AN ATTEMPT TO SPEED UP  
MY MOTHERS DEMISE FROM HER HEALTH CONDITION

I HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER THIS SUBMISSION

Daniel  
DANIEL

## A SHORT HISTORY (TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE)

1998 - MY FATHER HAS SUCCEMPTED TO DEMENTIA  
I RESIGN MY JOB AT WOLLONGONG UNIVERSITY TO  
TENDER TO HIS NEEDS

1999 - I APPLY FOR CARER PAYMENT & ALLOWANCE  
AND I AM SUCCESSFUL.

2004 - MY MOTHER IS HOSPITALISED AFTER HER FIRST  
HEART ATTACK - I ADMINISTER WHAT HELP I CAN  
WHILE STILL CARING FOR MY FATHER.

2005 - (25 JULY) - FINALLY I GET MY FATHER PLACED  
AT WOONONA CHESALON NURSING HOME

2005 - (26 JULY) - I NOTIFY CENTRELINK OF HIS  
PLACEMENT AT CHESALON

2005 - (AUGUST) - I APPLY TO BECOME MY MOTHERS CARER  
CENTRELINK REFUSES APPLICATION - START AN APPEAL.

2005 - (SEPTEMBER) - I APPLY FOR NEW START PENSION.

2005 - (OCTOBER) - NEW START PENSION PROCESS STARTS

WEEK 1 - APPLICATION SUBMITTED AT CORRIMAL C/LINK

WEEK 2 - APPLICATION REVIEW OF WEEK 1 CORRIMAL C/LINK

WEEK 3 - PHONE INTERVIEW - HALTED INTERVIEW BECAUSE  
INTERVIEWER WAS INEPT - SUBMITTED A COMPLAINT -  
A.R.O FOR COMPLAINT ENDS UP SHREDDING COMPLAINT.

WEEK 4 - APPLICATION REVIEW (FINANCIAL) - WOLLONGONG  
CLINIC  
ASKED TO REVIEW PHONE INTERVIEW OF PREVIOUS WEEK.

MARKED QUESTIONNAIRE WRONG ON ALL INFORMATION PUT  
ON FORM BY TELEPHONE INTERVIEWER.

AMENDED PHONE INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE WITH  
INTERVIEWER AND THEN PROCEEDED TO FILL OUT THIS  
WEEKS FINANCIAL INFORMATION

WEEK 5 - JOB PSYCHOLOGIST - CORRIMAL C/LINK.  
GAVE BRIEF HISTORY OF MY CARING ROLE FOR MY  
FAMILY SINCE I WAS 40 YEARS OF AGE.

WEEK 6 - CAREER ADVISOR - CORRIMAL C/LINK  
HAD A VERBAL CONFRONTATION WITH THIS PERSON  
BECAUSE I WANT TO DO VOLUNTEER WORK SO THAT I  
COULD CARING ON MY CARING ROLE FOR MY FAMILY  
AS I NEEDED THE MOST FLEXABILITY I COULD GET.

TO CARRY OUT MY CARING ROLE.

THE INTERVIEWER BEGRUDGINGLY BOWED TO MY WISHES AND THEN DREW UP AN AWA FSR ME TO SIGN. - I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE END OF THIS MATTER

WEEK 7 - JOB NETWORK PROVIDER

I RECEIVED A CENTRELINK LETTER IN THE MAIL WHICH HAD AN APPOINTMENT MADE FOR ME TO GO TO A JOB NETWORK PROVIDER - I RANG UP THE CAREER ADVISER, AS I THOUGHT THIS MATTER WAS RESOLVED, BUT SHE SAID I HAD TO ATTEND THE INTERVIEW UNDER THREAT OF FURTHER ACTION.

WHEN I ATTENDED THE NETWORK PROVIDER APPOINTMENT - I WAS TOLD THAT ON THEIR RECORD I WAS PLACED TO BE A VOLUNTEER WORKER FOR TWELVE MONTHS AND SHE DID NOT KNOW WHY I WAS MADE TO COME TO THIS INTERVIEW.

2005 (NOV/DEC) - NEW START PENSION APPROVED

2005 (DEC) - THE APPEAL TO BECOME MY MOTHERS

CARER I SUBMITTED IN AUGUST WAS SUCCESSFUL

I BECOME MY MOTHERS CARER - CENTRELINK OFFICER SAID ALL PREVIOUS NEW START PROCESS WAS NOW NULL AND VOID

2007 (27<sup>th</sup> MAY) - MY FATHER DIES AND I NOTIFY CENTRELINK OF HIS DEMISE

2007 (27<sup>th</sup> JUNE) - REASSESSMENT FORMS FOR MY CAREERS PENSION FOR MY MOTHER ARRIVES AND I FILL THEM IN AND SUBMIT THEM.

2007 (29<sup>th</sup> JULY) - CAREERS PENSION CANCELLED

I RANG UP CENTRELINK TO ASK WHY IT WAS CANCELLED - THE OPERATOR CHECKED THE RECORD AND STATED THAT IT WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE:-

- (1) I DO 20 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER WORK A WEEK
- (2) I DO A 4 HOUR COURSE AT TAFE PER WEEK
- (3) THE TRAVEL TIME FOR THE ABOVE IS ABOUT 1 1/2 HOURS PER WEEK

I CONTINUE TO DO THE PROMISED VOLUNTEER JOBS UNTIL THEY WERE FINISHED AND THEN I CEASED VOLUNTEER WORK - CENTRELINK NOTIFIED

I ALSO TERMINATED ALL CHARITY WORK

I TERMINATED THE TAFE COURSE

CEASED ALL CHARITY DONATIONS

THE OPPORTUNITY COST OF MY VOLUNTEER WORK TO THE NATION, WAS MINIMALLY, ABOUT \$1000 PER WEEK - SO FAR ABOUT \$40,000 LOST TO THE ORGANISATIONS PLUS THE COST OF THE APPEAL PROCESS

THE ORGANISATIONS WERE :-

① P.C.Y.C. WOLLONGONG

② CHESALON NURSING HOME WOODNONGA

③ UNIVERSITY SCIENCE CENTRE.

I HAD PUT IN AN F.O.I. TO CHECK THE AUGUST 2005 APPEAL BUT WAS INFORMED THE RECORD COULD NOT BE LOCATED

I PERSONALLY THINK THIS LOSS OF RECORDS NEED INVESTIGATING AS OFFICIAL RECORDS DISAPPEARING IS TROUBLESOME FOR GOVERNMENT.

I STARTED THE APPEAL PROCESS ABOUT AUGUST OF 2007. THE PROCESS :-

(1) CENTRELINK OFFICER WHO MADE THE DECISION

(2) AUTHORISED REVIEW OFFICER FROM CENTRELINK

(3) SOCIAL SECURITY TRIBUNAL

(4) ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL TRIBUNAL (STILL OPEN)

THE FIRST REVIEW OFFICER DID NOT CONTACT MY MOTHER'S DOCTOR TO ASCERTAIN HER LEVEL OF CARE REQUIRED THE LAST REVIEW OFFICER DID AND REVERSED HER DECISION

## MY MOTHER - ANGELA DE MARTIN

- (1) 81 YEAR OLD FEMALE PENSIONER
- (2) BOTH KNEES HAVE BEEN REPLACED
- (3) LEFT SHOULDER DAMAGE DUE TO AGE AND CAR CRASH
- (4) INSULIN DEPENDENT DIABETIC
- (5) EDUCATED ONLY UP TO THE AGE OF 12 YEARS
- (6) DOES NOT SPEAK FLUENT ENGLISH.
- (7) CANNOT UNDERSTAND DOCUMENTATION.
- (8) HEART ATTACK 2004 - DETERIORATING CONDITION
- (9) HEART BY PASS OPERATION (4-WAY) ON 13-5-08
- (10) INFECTION AND BLOOD CLOT IN RIGHT LEG - NEEDS INTENSIVE CARE AND MEDICATION FROM HEALTH PROFESSIONAL - ACCESS HOSPITAL/MEDICARE RECORDS
- (11) IMMOBILITY - REQUIRES ASSISTANCE AND TRANSPORT TO & FROM HEALTH PROFESSIONAL'S ROOMS & HOSPITALS
- (12) ON GOING SUPERVISION OF MEDICATIONS.

SINCE BEING DISMISSED AS MY MOTHER'S CARER CENTRELINK HAS NOT CONTACTED MY MOTHER TO ASCERTAIN HER CONDITION OR

- (1) HER MEDICAL STATUS
- (2) HER MENTAL STATUS
- (3) HER GENERAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

QUESTION:- HAS CENTRELINK A DUTY OF CARE TO ENSURE THEIR CLIENTELE IS STILL ALIVE?

QUESTION:- DOES CENTRELINK HAVE A HIDDEN AGENDA TO HASTEN OLD AGE PENSIONERS DEMISE?

QUESTION:- DOES CENTRELINK PURPOSEFULLY IMPOVERISH THEIR CLIENTELE AS PART OF A LIBERAL PARTY IDEOLOGY TO IMPOVERISH TWO THIRDS OF THE POPULATION AS THE AMERICANS HAVE DIRECTED