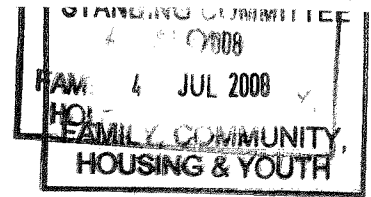


Submission No. 938

(Inq into better support for carers)

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 and I want to inform the 'Inquiry into Better Support for Carers' of our situation as carers. My husband and I have a son with Down Syndrome. He is 31 years of age. My husband is 66 years of age. Son 71 years of age.

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 care for and support our son, but in so doing we relieve the Government from much responsibility in providing adequate services and supported accommodation for all degrees of disability.

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 ...

Limited opportunities for travel or relaxation away from home. My husband hopes to retire at the end of this year, and as many people in our age group do; we would like to travel; and to take advantage of off peak rates for accommodation etc. However, because the respite

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

Fully staffed respite house, with more days available, and nearer home.

We feel that our son, at this time, would be more appropriately helped towards more socialization and community involvement, by a Personal Support Worker.

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 ...

Doing what they have promised to do.

We feel that there have been enough submissions and inquiries - We feel that all carers, especially older people must be satisfied that Action - will be taken very soon.

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

Signature

Gillian
Rogers

Print your name

Roger M. A.
GILLIAN

Date

02.07.08.

I am submitting to the inquiry because... continued.

We are caring for our son at home. He needs our care and support in every area of his life.

In Personal Care, - Toileting, Bathing, Shaving, Cleaning his teeth, Application of creams to skin conditions.

When necessary, administer medications.

Our son cannot prepare meals, that requires mother to be at home to make all meals. He needs transportation to all activities.

Our son has very little understanding of normal conversation but he constantly repeats a few words and phrases, and at times becomes very excited and laughs and calls out very loudly. His incessant vocalising becomes very irritating and irritating because it results in our being negative when attempting to correct him. He also at times, becomes * aggressive towards himself. In recent months our son has become more and more withdrawn, he frequently refuses to attend the Day Service ATSS, where he is placed, and spends more and more hours in bed.

* Childlike tantrums, sitting down - kicking - head banging.

2. As a carer, I face the following problems -- continued.

Service that we use, only has full time carers during school holiday weeks. we are restricted to school holiday weeks only, and occasional weekends.

Our son has a place at at Day Service (ATSS) but due to his reluctance to attend cannot be in respite during the day because no staff are on duty. The respite hours that we use is 30-40 minutes from home and his Day Service, which means using a Taxi twice a day, also making a respite stay even more expensive.

We feel that at our time of life we need much more time to relax, to be free to go on the occasional trip without the restriction of being tied to just a few weeks of respite each year.

3) As a carer, I need help with -- continued.

rather than being all the time with people who have similar disabilities and associated behaviour problems.

For the long term, and in the near future we hope that there will be appropriate fully supported accommodation in our local area.