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**From:** Terry and Hazel  
**Sent:** Friday, 11 July 2008 10:56 AM  
**To:** Committee, Reps (REPS)  
**Subject:** Better Support for Carers

REC 2117/08

**Submission No. 968**

(Inq into better support for carers)

Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth  
PO Box 6021  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

10th July 2008

Dear Secretary,

I wish to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee of Family, Community, Housing and Youth's Inquiry into Better Support for Carers.

My role as a Carer is one of immense privilege to care for our 34 year old daughter Wendy who after treatment for a Brain Tumour 20 years ago is an invalid and Epileptic. She is a delight and joy to care for and this is my calling in life.

However, I face the problem that as a full time carer, the Government has little appreciation of my role. In thinking about this, I consider the times our daughter has been hospitalised and cared for by professionals. The financial costs must be outstanding, and my role as full time Carer naturally saves the authorities considerable resources in financial and professional care.

I feel that the current Government was very quick to try to save money by deleting the annual payment to Carers, it should actually be *increased*, and given with thanks to the thousands of caring parents, spouses and family members who fulfill these roles in our community.

I believe the Government can better help Carers by having a system of disclosure of all the systems and assistance that may be available. The hours one has to spend being passed from department to department to find help and financial support is incredible. Surely there could be a file we can access to find the help we need, I refer to the Centrelink secure link when one has to access one's personal information..

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

Hazel

11/07/2008