

36 Albert Street
Ormiston

24th August

Dear Dr Kerley,

I am writing on behalf of myself and my husband regarding the lack of respite care. I am his full time carer but because he has had a stroke and is in a wheelchair he is classed as High Care. There is ample respite for low care people, as they don't need the amount of staff to look after them. I think it all comes down to money. Most facilities only have 2 beds for respite care. One is in a Dementia ward which most people who are being looked after in their own home do not belong in. I have had to book my husband into respite for me to have a break, last September, for next month. DCC have rung for me when I only wanted 4 days and they couldn't get me anything. That was 2 months ahead. I had to go privately which is expensive but thank goodness they did help me with some financial help. Keeping our partners at home is saving the government quite a lot of money but if something isn't done about the lack of care, the carers will go downhill and there will be a lot more people looking for nursing home beds. I am just one of many who are in the same boat. There are two new facilities being built here in the Redland's. Both are for low care. One is with the RSL the other is in the grounds of the Redland's Hospital. I know there is a lack of nursing home beds as one lady at Day Respite has had to have her name at 5 homes to be eligible to get into one. She has been waiting a long time and she is not well herself. I hope this letter helps you to help us, the carers, before there is a bigger problem.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Doreen Laing