

## Submission No. 6

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 28/5/08

**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 May 2008

**To:** Committee, FCHY (REPS)

**Subject:** better support for carers inquiry  
THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE - BETTER SUPPORT FOR CARERS.

I HAVE BEEN CARING FOR MY HUSBAND GREGORY FOR OVER 5 YEARS. I ALSO HAVE A CASUAL JOB WHICH VARIES IN HOURS PER FORTNIGHT DEPENDING ON SEASONAL CONDITIONS.

MY HUSBAND SUFFERS WITH MANY MEDICAL CONDITIONS ie. SEVERE BACK PAIN ( A LEGACY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT IN THE 80'S) SLEEP APNEA, ASTHMA, TYPE 2 DIABETES, HYPERTENSION ETC, ETC.

MY DAYS CONSIST OF SHOWERING/TOILETING SUPERVISING MEDICATIONS, COOKING, CLEANING AND TRANSPORTING HIM TO NUMEROUS DOCTORS APPOINTMENTS ALL OVER THE CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA.

I TRY TO ONLY LEAVE THE HOUSE FOR WORK OF A NIGHT WHEN THE DEMANDS OF CARING FOR MY HUSBAND ARE A LITTLE LESS HECTIC, MY SON OR DAUGHTER AND OTHER RELATIVES THEN STEP IN TO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS.

MY HUSBAND OFTEN SUFFERS MOOD SWINGS AND DEPRESSION AT BEING IN THE PREDICAMENT OF HAVING TO RELY ON FAMILY FOR BASIC LIFE FUNCTIONS. HE CAN BECOME ABUSIVE TO ALL AND SUNDRY ALTHOUGH NEVER PHYSICALLY VIOLENT.

AS YOU CAN PROBABLY IMAGINE IT'S NOT AN EASY EXSISTANCE BUT WE GET BY, I HAVE IN FACT COMPLETED A TAFE COURSE IN OFFICE MANAGEMENT/COMPUTERS AMID THE DRAMAS AT HOME. AS A SUBMISSION TO YOUR INQUIRY I WOULD LIKE TO

SUGGEST THAT THE CARERS BONUS IS ONE OF THE FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR, IT ALLOWS US A FAMILY HOLIDAY EVERY YEAR SINCE IT'S INTRODUCTION AND A GODSENT FOR PURCHASING APNEA MASKS ETC, WHICH ONLY HAVE A

WORKING LIFE OF APPROX. 12 MONTHS AND AT \$150.00 PLUS ARE A GREAT DRAIN ON OUR LIMITED INCOME. MY HUSBAND IS 48 YEARS OLD AND I'AM 44 IN

SEPTEMBER, I DIDN'T THINK THAT I WOULD BE CARING FOR AN IMFIRM HUSBAND AT THIS EARLY AGE, BUT LIFE SOMETIMES DEALS FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE

DECK, I SUPPOSE. IF YOUR COMMITTEE COULD CONVINCCE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THE CARERS BONUS AN ONGOING PAYMENT YOU WILL I'M SURE ALLEVIATED A LOT OF WORRY FROM CARERS AUSTRALIA WIDE, WE ARE

DOING IT TOUGH OUT HERE, AND TO SEE AN END TO THE BONUS, COULD SEE

SOME WONDERFUL AND DEDICATED PEOPLE BECOME DISILLUSIONED AND A LOT

MORE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ETC, MOVING TO NURSING HOMES ETC.