

ACC 28/7/08

1 July 2008

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

Dear Sirs

RE: Submission – Inquiry into better support for Carers

This submission addresses:-

- The barriers to social and economic participation for carers, with a particular focus on helping carers to find and/or retain employment.
- The practical measures required to better support carers, including key priorities for action.

Submission

1. Make it attractive for Pensioners to continue in the work force to work as carers by increasing the salary cap above which Pensioners cannot earn without having their pension reduced.
2. Provided Pensioners are engaged in Community Service such as caring for the sick, aged or disabled, a Pensioner should be able to earn assessable income without affecting his or her pension entitlement.
3. The capacity and/or opportunity to earn assessable income should not be a barrier to a Pensioner undertaking the duties and responsibility of a carer.

Comment

To define carers as "individuals providing unpaid support for others..." completely negates and frustrates any incentive for Pensioners to be engaged in caring. The definition has the impact of encouraging Pensioners to do nothing.

The adoption of these recommendations involve NO COST to the Government. Earnings in this model would be subject to tax therefore there may be a net gain to Government.

Yours faithfully

Bill