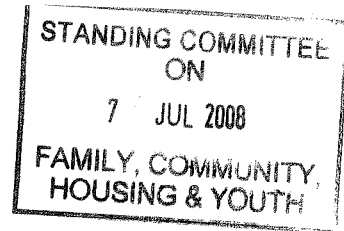


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



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...

I am a mother & a carer to a seven year
old boy with a rare genetic syndrome
who has required medical attention &
early therapeutic intervention since birth.

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 fully realise my son's potential and his
integration into society. This
involves a full schedule of appointments
& therapies. I also need to make sure my
son's rights are respected and to make sure
he has the same
opportunities as more able children.

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 ...

it takes a lot of time & money to do as much
as you can for your child. My health, both
physical & emotional, has suffered. My
relationships with ^{others} ^{suffer} my other child suffers because
my boy takes up a lot of time & energy. As
much as you try & be
all things to all people it is just impossible.

More information is attached on a separate sheet



3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

money. I have not worked in the last 7 years and I would really like help to pay for my son's therapy bills which run from between one hundred & one hundred & sixty dollars a week during a year. Private health insurance

More information is attached on a separate sheet

really gives very little back considering how much it costs.

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

I think the Government can better help carers by ...

- getting people in your departments to answer their phones & deal with your problems efficiently and with compassion for example I am still waiting to hear about a reconditioned computer for my son at school since my application in Sept. 2007.
- more help with therapy bills either by working with the private insurers to get us more money back or by increasing carer payment direct to a therapist perhaps.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

- make it mandatory for teachers aides in school to receive training & support - putting

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.

others parents in is just not on for anyone!

Yours sincerely

FIONA

Print your name

3 July 08