

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

Submission No. 337  
(Inq into better support for carers  
A.O.C. 1/7/08

STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
25 JUN 2008  
FAMILY, COMMUNITY,  
HOUSING & YOUTH

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...

My biggest fear is where my son's future lies and not knowing whether he will be safe and happy in a permanent placing. If and when I'm not there for him.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

1. **The role and contribution of carers in society**

Please help

As a carer, I feel that my role is...

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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 ...

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More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

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More information is attached on a separate sheet

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

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

Making sure there are enough permanent home placements for all multiple disabled and intellectually disabled people for the future. AND financial assistance to care for them.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

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.

JILLIAN  
Print your name

20/6/08  
Date

## Better Support for Carers Attachment Sheet

*I am submitting to the enquiry because I have personal concerns for the ongoing care of my 20 year old son. Once he turned 18, he as a disabled member of our community and myself as his primary care giver became forgotten people. We were no longer eligible for a case manager, who was so greatly appreciated in the past for helping us to access information and by helping us in the way of rest bite care and financial aid.*

1. As a carer, I feel that my role is to provide total permanent care, both mentally and physically. My role will also have ongoing responsibilities which are going to become more difficult as I, his carer, become older, with challenges to face such as; the increase of my sons height and weight which each day is making it physically difficult to handle his day to day routines. And it is also an emotionally and mentally draining responsibility dealing with the frustrations he holds and a disabled person.
2. As a carer, I face these main following problems; Lack of social and family life. Outside the home we face a lack of accessibility to public buildings and no provision for adult convenience for example, toilets, in such premises. There is also a lack of rest bite care in home and outside to enable myself and family members to participate in social activities as a family, with one person generally missing out to stay at home to care for my son James.
3. As a carer, the principal help I need is for both the Federal and State Governments to acknowledge that me and my family members are taking on the role that used to be the responsibility of the Governments. Once James became 18 years of age all co-operation stopped between myself and the agencies, which included James' case management. The physical problems eg, incontinence aids, now have to be paid for by me for 6 months of the year, and deterioration of my sons wheelchair and the repairs that go with this and the use of a taxi to Yooralla day programmes also must be paid for by me. We truly need more funding for in home rest bite care by local council carers, particularly on the weekends when care is needed most. More restbite homes are also required in localities easily available to the disabled people. Currently there is a lack of these facilities, accordingly the waiting lists are very long.
4. I think the Government can better help carers to provide a fully funded price extended to the current C.P.I allowance. They must be willing to provide an allowance equivalent to a full time position wage which you have had to give up to care for the disabled person with the probability of never working either full or part time again. I also feel it would be a very wise investment to provide in home speech, occupational and physiotherapies. These listed therapies would be greatly beneficial, both to the carer and the disabled person.