

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. 460
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.B.C. 2/7/08

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...

More access for Carers to public areas for nearby parking. Mostly we have to drop our patient off at venue (where he has to stand and wait - no seats available) and Carer must then find a car park some distance away and walk to pick up patient.

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...

Caring for my husband night and day, to be ever watchful that he is on safe ground and does not fall or trip over objects, fall out of bed. He is totally dependent on me (Carer) 24 hours a day - to remember to take his medication or to go to bed or to eat his meal.

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 ...

I need to give my patient (husband) his evening medication before 4.30pm because, with his type of dementia he is belligerent and verbally abusive after 4pm or so, as he suffers from "jundominis" dementia. He depends on me socially as he cannot communicate - he is also very deaf - isolated there also. He relies on me to make constant contact with our family - so phone bills to mobile numbers are constant and expensive, but necessary.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

General everyday and night care of patient — it is quite exhausting (and unrewarding) as it is so constant. We realise that this caring by the spouse is a great savings to the government, but we are also elderly and with health worries and so it is a huge, constant burden. 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 ...

with details — medication etc.
Carer's allowance being extended more in line with the minimum wages. Cost of fuel to take patient to various venues — exercise classes etc — is prohibitive

Apologies for writing I cannot see very well at all

More information is attached on a separate sheet

Oh! To enjoy a relaxed, carefree old age and a little bit of social life. We would always want to care for our spouse and not shirk our responsibilities — but Oh!

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.

It is so very hard to make ends meet
Yours sincerely

JUDITH

Print your name

Date

25th June 2008