

A.O.C. 7/7108
Submission No. 546
(Inq into better support for carers)

26 June 2008

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
House of Representatives
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 the fifty two year old mother /carer of a twenty two year old young man with autism and intellectual disability. He lives at home, and currently we are reasonably satisfied with his Community Participation day program and the respite care that we receive in for him. My employment opportunities are restricted because of my caring responsibilities and our social /recreational opportunities are also limited. However, overall, we get by.

Our main concern is for his future. The provision of supported accommodation services seems to be haphazard and crisis driven. There is no mechanism for orderly forward planning. Within the upcoming few years I would like to be able to look around and find appropriate accommodation for him preferably in the area that is familiar to him and close to his family. However, currently that is not possible as there is only enough accommodation to meet the needs of those in crisis.

I look forward to hearing about the plans you make to improve the provision of supported accommodation for young Australians like my son. To have some certainty about the future will improve the life of carers.

Yours sincerely

Penny