

Submission No. 627
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 8/7/08

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1 = JUL 2008

FAMILY, COMMUNITY,
HOUSING & YOUTH

30-6-08

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE BEEN CARING FOR MY ELDERLY MOTHER FOR ABOUT 8 YEARS. AT FIRST I HAVE FOUND IT A NOT SO EASY JOB. A LOT TO LEARN, WITH DIFFERENT COMPLAINTS, TAKING NOTES FOR DOCTORS A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY AND DECISIONS WHEN AND NOT TO CALL A AMBULANCE

NOT SO EASY WHEN YOU ARE A SOLE CARER WITH LITTLE BACK UP.

I AM ALSO ON A DISSIBILITY SUPPORT PENSION AS WELL BEING 60 YEARS. EMPLOYMENT IS NOT A ISSUE FOR ME. I HAVE BAD DAYS FROM TIME TO TIME THIS ALSO IS A PROBLEM WITH NO ONE TO TAKE OVER. BLUE CARE HELPS A LOT. BUT THEY ARE FLAT OUT LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE AND DO NOT WANT TO TAKE UP THEIR TIME IF I CAN HELP IT.

I BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE MORE SUPPORT FOR SINGLE CARERS LIKE ME, THE ROLE OF A CARER HAS BEEN WELL RECOGNISED, MONEY DOES NOT ALWAYS SOLVE THE PROBLEM. I HAVE 1 MORNING RESPIRE EVERY WEEK. THIS DOES NOT GIVE ME MUCH TIME AWAY

THIS IS A HARD PROBLEM TO SOLVE AS NEIGHBOURS AND RELITIVES SEEM TO BE OUT ENJOYING THEM SELVES, WHILE THE CARER HAS TO DO A 24-7 SHIFT EACH DAY AND NIGHT. PEOPLE ASK YOU IN THE STREET HOW YOUR MOTHER IS GOING AND TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE DOING A GOOD JOB IT IS SAD IT IS NOT LIKE THE OLD DAYS WHEN NEIGHBOURS AND RELITIVES HELPED EACH OTHER.

I ENJOY MY ROLE AS A CARER, FIND IT A GREAT PLEASURE, MAY WAKE UP TIRED IN THE MORNINGS, BUT ENJOY THE GOOD DAYS, DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS WHEN THEY COME ALONG WOULD NOT CONSIDER GIVING UP CARING ALSO INVOLVED WITH COMMUNITY WORK. I HOPE MY COMMENTS MAY BE OF SOME HELP.

YOURS FAITHFULLY