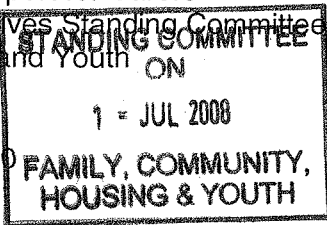


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Submission No. 644

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 8/7/08

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...

I have a son with a mental illness (schizophrenia) and as he lives a distance from my husband and myself, we worry that he has no case manager or support in Moa.

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 help our son and manage his illness but this becomes increasingly difficult with the distance we are aged 84-78 and have ceased to drive so we are ~~at~~ only in contact by phone, unless someone takes us there, as we are in the Northern suburbs.

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 ...

distance and knowing there is no support for our son in his area so unwellness is always present, the area a person lives in should not exclude them from support and care no matter what else

More information is attached on a separate sheet

1/ We have been able to help our son to buy his own home but his choice is in the Moe - Newborough area a 2 hour trip from our home in Mill Park, and we have handed in our driving licence, it is impossible to see him on a regular basis.

It would ease our concerns if he had a case manager who could check up on him and give him support in his day to day living.

Because of his illness he is very bad with managing his disability pension

I have finally got Centrelink to take money for some bills, gas, light, water, and this helps, but he often says he is out of food about 3-4 days before his money is due.

My husband has alzheimers, and I am struggling with caring for him as my health is not good, so it is so important for our son to have some support in the area where he has chosen to live.

I thank you for taking the time to here from us.

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

day to day problems with my husband who has alzheimers and my own health is not good (C.O.P.D.) we are always concerned for our son with Schizophrenia and his lack of support

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 ...

providing more case workers and mental health clinics in the Latrobe Valley (Moe-Newborough) areas and to follow up those that have no support in the area they choose to live. I am sure our son is not the only one in his position

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.

Yours sincerely

Margaret + Larrie
Print your name

29.6.08
Date