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MARIA

ACE 18/7/08
Submission No. 917
(Inq into better support for carers)

SECRETARY
INQUIRY INTO BETTER
SUPPORT FOR CARERS
STANDING COMMITTEE
ON FAMILY, COMMUNITY,
HOUSING AND YOUTH
P.O. BOX 6021
HOUSE OF REPRESENT-
TIVES, 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.

My role as a carer is caring for my elderly Mother on a fulltime basis, 24/7. It is a very demanding role, as everything is taken care of by me. Dis appointments, tradesmen, cooking, shopping, ironing, washing, paperwork, medication, car maintenance, garden etc.

It is very exhausting and sometimes I need a break. I applied to the Carers Support Group for a break, but they could only give me two half days and one whole day, that is from 12 noon FRI - 12 noon MONDAY, which is of course by far not enough!

My Mother is 98 years old, she is classed as low care, but she is actually medium care, but there is no such term.

She is now to old to go to residential care, as she is comfortable in her own home, she has an electric bed and lift chair, bedside commode, etc.

What I am proposing is more funding for in home respite for a minimum of 10-14 days. That would be sufficient for a complete rest and recreation.

Private in home care is not possible, as the cost is prohibitive!

I thank You for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committee's inquiry. I look forward to reviewing the recommendations you make in order to improve support for carers.

Yours Sincerely,
M.C.