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**Submission No. 960**  
(Inq into better support for carers)

1/7/2008

**Tracey**

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

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.

As a Carer, I feel that my role is ....

Devalued by the restrictions and requirements of Centrelink there is no recognition of working Carers in the taxation system, Disability Trust is only for those with large amounts of money. I feel excluded from support and discriminated against as a working part time Carer.

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Carers are made to feel guilty and this adds to the distress.

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I face the following problems ...

My family could no longer cope and my son is in a blocked accommodation bed. We have him at home every weekend and extra days were possible. We take him to all medical appointments and are on call for any extra support he requires. Yet we are not recognized as Carer's even though we provide more than 20hrs a week Care because of Centrelinks requirement that Care must be physical and occur daily. We are Carers who are excluded from recognition. We both work full time and the Carers allowance is recognition of our commitment to our son. Our home still has property damage from our son's behaviors, but he is dear to us and we want to continue supporting him.

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We pay for our adult sons medical needs but cannot claim these on our tax as he is an adult. We have Private Health insurance yet we cannot include him in Family Private Health Insurance after he turns 21.

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Financial support to assist people with a disability should be tax deductible to provide incentive for others to provide financial assistance for living expenses. The financial support we provide allows him to have a small amount of money set aside. The Disability Trust system was disappointing as it is only for those with large amounts of money.

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I need help with ...

Recognition of the support we provide by recognizing my sons permanent disability as just that.

Recognition of my role as a Carer by less restriction on the Carer Allowance, recognition of working Careers within the Taxation system,

An improved Disability Trust established with a small amount of money.

Rebates for adult children with disabilities for Private Health Care coverage and inclusion for adult children in family memberships.

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I think the Government can better help Carers by

Recognizing that a permanent intellectual or physical disability is permanent and not require continual proof of an existing permanent disability, and as above.

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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



**Tracey**