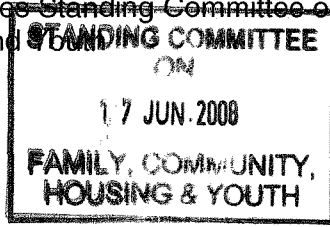


Committee Secretary  
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,  
Community, Housing and Youth  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Submission No. 83  
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 23/6/08

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...

Myself and my wife are carers for our adult son, and believe, until recently carers have been forgotten in many ways, although government recognises the importance of carers, there are still times when we feel nobody is listening and frankly nobody really cares.  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...

Our role as carers for our son is full time responsibility, on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The community needs to be made aware that this is a full time commitment, which restricts us to go anywhere.  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 ...

We are restricted to social functions, as our son needs constant care. We need to employ another carer for the duration of the event and this comes at considerable cost. Respite facilities are very difficult to access, requesting more than a few days at a time is hard to get, and requesting for a few weeks to have a vacation takes a great deal of time to organise and often dates are uncertain until just prior to travel time. Also any bid + equipment + house upgrade always seem to be far more expensive than if it were the average person.  More information is attached on a separate sheet

**3. The practical measures required to better support carers**

As a carer, I need help with ...

more respite housing with fully trained staff, because in our area we know of two houses, one there is 100 families queuing for 5 rooms, and another one there is 70 families queuing for another 5 rooms for respite, so when we look for respite the answer is booked out or some homeless people living there.

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 ...

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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

Print your name

Joe

Date

L MARY

15-6-08.