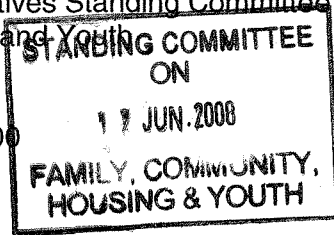


A.O.C. 23/06/08

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.

I am submitting to the Inquiry because...

The support that families who care for disabled children is long over due. What we currently get is a drop in the ocean compared to what we are saving the Government and Community for taking on the responsibility of caring and providing for disabled children in our homes. 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 do for her what she is incapable of doing for herself. It is to ensure she is happy and safe and that she is continually "engaged" in leading a meaningful life. Despite the day to day challenges of taking on this responsibility, it is what I must do because if I don't who will? 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 ...

A government who constantly defines disability in a way that always seems to exclude my 12 year old daughter in one way or another. This effectively means she does not benefit from funding ~~issues~~ initiatives and this is a great source of frustration

For example my current "battle" is that she is ineligible for support through CASS since More information is attached on a separate sheet she is under 16 and does not (by law) get a Pension card. And yet she is incontinent because of her disability. So I have to pay for incontinence products - unfairly. This is one example of many.

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

* Respite (in home). Not just to pay for a carer but some support for my family because the reality is that economically we are disadvantaged because of the needs of my daughter.

* The Government recognising that when you have a "special needs" child, the family becomes "a special needs" family unit. A good start would be a family health care card 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 Health Care Cards to the Family of which has a lifelong disability not just one with the child's name on it (Hence not family benefits)

* Funding initiatives for older children with Autism

* Assisting with the Economic impact of living with a disabled child. Eg. Of the last 12 years (since the birth of my daughter) I have only been able to More information is attached on a separate sheet

work in a part time capacity for 6 of those years despite have 5 tertiary Qualifications. But of course I miss out on carers payment because the government conveniently

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.

provide a formula that effectively eliminates people like me. It is - pathetic

Dianne

Print your name

8/6/08

Date