

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. 1016

(Inq into better support for carers)

Dear Secretary

DOC 28/7/08

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...

IN my younger days I helped set up Sunshine House now known
as Westnet. For over forty yrs I was heavily involved in fund raising
worrying the local M.P's, mayors, business people, door knocking
committees, now I'm older + unable so I + parents like me need help.

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 care for my child (11000) speak to young mums
who have it all before them. Help if I can find teach
them what I've learnt

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 ...

Some people never really accepting you but have
everything else on the stage where they can cope +
it doesn't hurt so much. I personally don't have many problems
we dealt with the worst + we've come through fine. Times have
changed + it's not much is being done than years ago, it's up to
the young parents to keep reaching for better things.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

When my daughter is on holidays from her day care. I need someone who would take Diane out or somewhere she could go for the day morning or afternoon with other clients & enjoy herself as age is catching up on me plus ill health. I'm not so keen to go out too often.

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 ...

Assisting the older parent, when we were younger we took everything in our stride but as we age it's harder. Health problems getting on & off public transport costs at times.

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

SARAH.

Print your name

Date

3. 7. 2008.

3-7-08.

DEAR SECRETARY.

I'm NOW 83 YRS OLD AND MY DISABLED DAUGHTER IS COMING UP 60 YRS. I MUST CONFESS I LOOK BACK OVER DIANNE'S LIFE AND TODAY I REALISE JUST HOW FAR WE HAVE COME, WE STILL CAN IMPROVE THINGS. STAFF AT THE DAY CENTRES NEEDS SHOULD BE MET WITH MORE KNOWLEDGE, TOOLS & MORE DAY CENTRES. AT PRESENT THEY DO VERY WELL WITH THE TOOLS THEY HAVE AND DO A WONDERFUL JOB. WE NEED MORE HOUSE FOR CLIENTS WHO CANNOT LIVE AT HOME FOR WHAT EVER REASON, THEY NEED SUPPORT FOR MORE THINGS TO BE DONE DURING HOLIDAY TIME & WEEK ENDS.

YOUNG PARENTS BADLY NEED SUPPORT TO GIVE THEM TIME TO THEMSELVES & OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS WHO IN TURN MAYBE NEED SOME SUPPORT AS THEY FEEL THAT THE DISABLED ONE GETS LOTS MORE ATTENTION THAN THEY DO. AS A MOTHER I WAS SHOCKED ONE DAY AT A FAMILY GATHERING TO HEAR MY OLDER CHILDREN DISCUSSING THINGS THEY MISSED OUT ON & THERE WAS MY HUSBAND & I THINKING WE WERE DOING OUR BEST FOR ALL. (5 GIRLS 1 BOY) I'M ONE OF THE LUCKY PARENTS AS I LOOK AT MY OTHER CHILDREN & THEY ARE FINE CITIZENS BUT IT COULD HAVE CAUSED RESENTMENT ETC.

DOCTORS NEED TO BE TOLD TO REALLY LISTEN TO THE PARENTS, THEY DEAL WITH THE CHILD ALL THE TIME SO THERE ARE TIMES WHEN PARENTS CAN BE RIGHT & THE DOCTOR WRONG. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE DOCTORS & NURSES BE TAUGHT THAT IF THE CLIENTS ARE IN HOSPITAL TO CONSIDER MAYBE THE CLIENT CANNOT READ SO DON'T GIVE THEM A MENU AND EXPECT THEM TO TICK CERTAIN FOOD OFF OR GIVE THEM A TRAY OF FOOD & THINK THEY ALL KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT, SOME HAVE TO BE FED OTHERS JUST

NEED THEIR FOOD CUT OR BREAD BUTTERED. WATCH THE CLIENTS EXPRESSIONS AS MAYBE THEY ARE TOO SCARED TO TALK. OR THEY CAN'T. MY DAUGHTERS FACE & EYES TELL ME LOTS OF THINGS. SHE CAN TALK QUITE WELL BUT OFTEN DOESN'T BUT 9 TIMES OUT OF 10 I WATCH WHAT HER FACE OR EYES IS TELLING ME.

MAKE SURE PEOPLE WHO DEAL WITH OUR TYPE OF KIDS HAVE PATIENCE AS OUR KIDS CAN DO ANYTHING THAT MOST OF US TAKE FOR GRANTED THEY JUST TAKE LONGER.

MAYBE IN TIME THERE CAN BE PLACES BUILT WHERE FAMILIES CAN GO FOR A BREAK TOGETHER IN MY YOUNGER DAYS EITHER MY HUSBAND OR I WOULD TAKE LONG WEEKENDS ONE GO AWAY WITH OUR SO CALLED NORMAL CHILDREN & THE OTHER STAY HOME WITH THE HANDICAPPED ONE. NOT IDEAL BUT AT THE TIME IT WAS THE ONLY BREAK WE GOT. WE NEVER WENT OUT AT NIGHT AS A COUPLE AS NO ONE WANTED TO MIND THE HANDICAPPED ONE IT MIGHT BE CATCHING. I DO KNOW THAT HAS CHANGED A LOT BUT STILL A LONG WAY TO GO.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST HOPE THAT THE DAY WILL COME WHEN THERE WILL BE NO INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED WILL BE BORN (THE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE DREAM), BUT WHO KNOWS?