

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. 111
(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...

I believe carers and carers allowance should be the same in the amount of money per fortnight. We all do a hard job and deserve some recognition and appreciation for the society.

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...

Very important. My role is just like a mental health worker but without the Degree. Supporting a mentally ill husband 24 hours a day is saving thousands of dollars for the Government because "I'm doing the work" and getting a pittance (carers allowance).

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 ...

Can not go out and have time to myself.
Have to control my husband's mental moods.
Can not go and get a job and earn a proper wage. I don't even have any superannuation that frightens me for my old age living expenses.

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 income, instead of carers allowance it should be the same as carers payment.

* I need a free transport card, when with my patient I need a support group to talk about mental illness. Have discounts for groceries and clothing.

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 ...

Free transport card when with patient.

Discounts on food, prescriptions, health care card.

Respite paid for at least twice a year (weekend)

Form groups in suburbs, to attend to and talk.

* Money - where is our superannuation for later years

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

Signature

Domenica

Print your name

9/6/08

Date