

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. 113
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 23/6/08

HOUSING & YOUTH

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 strongly feel that carers could cope better if we had more respite + the hope of residential care further down the track. I don't want to be a doddering pensioner looking after an adult disabled person.

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 undervalued. I believe that we save the government a terrific amount of money with little/poor support. We don't have the choices of previous generations. I think we are just expected to put up + shut up under enormous strains that most people would not be able to cope with.

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 ...

Due to lack of proper respite care + facilities + because of my child's 'disability' (autism) I often feel very socially isolated.

health system as ours deteriorates

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

Respite care + support services and down
the track; residential care

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 ... ^{a central data bank}

Having some form of uniform information system
rather than having to rely on "insider" knowledge
+ word of mouth. At present help is too

disjointed + often you end up filling in the same
old forms every time you need to access services, this

can be very frustrating
not to mention invasive of one's privacy.

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

Dominique
Signature

Date
10/6/08