

Submission No. 1145

(Inq into better support for carers)

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IG COMMITTEE
ON

JUL 2008

FAMILY, COMMUNITY,
HOUSING & YOUTH

2nd July 2008

Secretary
Inquiry into
for Carers

Standing Committee on Family
Community, Housing and Youth
P.O. Box 6021

House of Representatives
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.

My role as a carer is
to support our son who suffers from
a mental illness. My caring roll affects
my life and my husband life by contantly
monitoring taking of medication, personal
hygiene on a daily bases, doctors

and dentist visits and the stress associated with living with a son with a mental illness.

I have been unable to obtain a carers allowance. As Roy and I age financial pressures will increase. Roy is 60 and I am 57. We live on a small farm growing fresh vegetable to supplement Roy Super. Allocated Pension.

Mark has a Life style Support Package this has been a significant help to our family to have a support worker (buddy) arrive at our home and take Mark out of the "family surrounds" and into the wider community, one day a week for a few hours. Roy and I do a small amount of voluntary work in our community to have a "break" from our caring role.

Thank you for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committee's Inquiry. I look forward to reviewing the recommendations you make in order to improve support for carers

Yours sincerely

Janelle