

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

A.O.C. 23/6/08

FAMILY, COMMUNITY,
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...

Disabled people deserve a better standard of living than they often have and their carers also.

Juge bureaucratic departments seem to serve themselves first + the people in need last. 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...

Completely undervalued by wider society and ~~not~~ not recognised officially by most Govt. Dep'ts. + agencies. eg. why does my daughter who already has enough problems have to wait endlessly in emergency departments, + is unable to access dental care when its needed. Transport costs are often unaffordable. 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 ...

Completely exhausted my husband and I retired at 55 years and I had only been in the paid workforce - permanent part time for nine years as before then my caring role didn't allow for ~~not~~ regular work. My Super is near on worthless. More information is attached on a separate sheet

To give our daughter an improved quality of life we are endlessly paying for extras - with no recompense - so long time carers we have almost forgotten what social life is.

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

Transporting our daughter at reasonable cost.
Dental work which could only be done under anaesthetic
at two major hospitals as my daughter's vagal nerve
stimulator needed to be switched off & on again
was postponed, cancelled etc ad nauseum until we went
to the private section at ~~that~~ that hospital and paid
over \$2000.00 - not tax deductible because our daughter is not
dependent as she receives a disability pension - which does not
cover all her
monthly expenses, as is
her
extra
expenses caring for their disabled person.
eg transport, dental, medical, equipment.
I am very angry that I could go to any
expensive restaurant & see business people eating
at the taxpayers expense
but I can't even claim anything to do with her care
- we have just spent \$2500.00 on a special bed for her.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

I think the Government can better help carers by ...

Making it easy for carers to claim
expenses caring for their disabled person.
eg transport, dental, medical, equipment.

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

MARIANNE

Print your name

10. 6. 2008

Date

When someone goes into "care" the carer's role is assumed to be over - that is a complete myth, in many cases, again no assistance for the "ex-carer."
* eg supported accom, nursing home.