

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

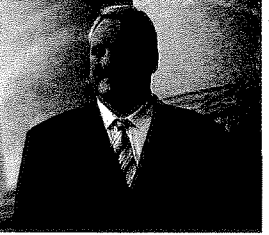
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Submission No. 1277

(Inq into better support for carers)

REF010808HM

Please quote REF No

AOC 2/9/08

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

To Whom It May Concern:

I write on behalf of my constituents in the Electorate of Hammond in South Australia, to submit my concerns to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Better Support for Carers. I understand the inquiry has closed and regret that I was not aware of its existence until after the deadline. I would be grateful, however, if the Committee might find an opportunity to still consider my concerns.

I am sure you are already aware that there are over 2.6 million Australians, about one in eight, that are carers. These carers come from all walks of life.

In the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers it showed that there are 227,700 South Australians in caring roles. According to the 2006 ABS Census there were 1,568,204 people in SA and over 428,000 live in regional and remote areas. Approximately 52,400 (23 percent) of rural South Australians are carers.

As you can see from above carers take quite a role in society not to mention the work they do for those they care for as well as usually taking on a full time job. There are over 26 organisations in my electorate who care or provide carers or services to those who are aged, disabled or in need of care. I believe they do a great job given the conditions they currently work under.

The members of Hammond need these carers and when plans such as the Country Health Plan are introduced it makes it very hard and puts quite a stress on the system. With the possible downgrading of hospitals and facilities in country areas, making it further for regional and remote South Australians to travel for medical help or care, I believe this will put even more stress on caring agencies.

I would appreciate your careful consideration into providing better support for all carers and recognise their importance in regional and remote areas of South Australia.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Pederrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

ADRIAN PEDERICK MP JP

Member for Hammond

Parliamentary Secretary to the Liberal Leader for – River Murray

Parliamentary Secretary to the Liberal Leader for – Sustainability and Climate Change

Deputy Opposition Whip

14 / 8 / 2008