

Leona

A.O.C. 10/11/08

9th October, 2008

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

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for accepting my submission relating to: Inquiry into better support for carers.

I will comment on some of the terms of reference. Please consider the following suggestions, from my experience these are priority areas:

Is it possible to put into place a network linked to Centrelink or Medicare or a Service Provider that understands and is willing to sympathise with the requirements of carers once the event of actual caring is finished (ie when death arrives). The provider would give access to and help with finding meaningful employment and appropriate training; assist with relocation costs of furniture removal, rental bond and associated costs where necessary but to be repaid in a given timeframe; support needs to be offered in the way of regaining social skills and returning confidence to the carer; dealing with loss and learning to live your own life.

My short story: I am 45 years old, my daughter is 13 years old. Dad passed away not long ago – he was 98 years of age. Mum died three years ago aged 87. I cared for Dad for years as an unpaid carer, Mum was able to rest as she was suffering with cancer. I also utilised any Government or visiting health professionals that could/would attend the township. My daughter and I eventually moved to a regional centre. Prior to all this I had held a responsible and well paid position within the public service. The outcome now: I work in aged care (its all I know), my skill level is low along with my wage(\$15.00per hour).

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However, I will not be discouraged and I will rise above this through study and aim to live rather than exist.

I have no desire to be recognised for being a carer.

It is worthwhile to keep in mind people are choosing to have children much later in life; I do not wish for these children to replicate my position as a carer but hope if they too become carers that their transition is not so difficult.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Yours faithfully

Submission - Inquiry into better support for carers

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