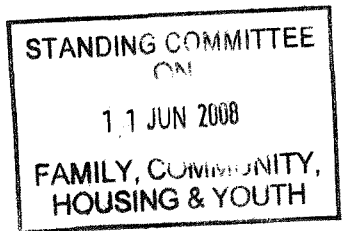


Committee Secretary  
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,  
Community, Housing and Youth  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



A.O.C. 26/6/08  
Submission No. 170  
(Inq into better support for carers)

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 am the sole carer of two boys aged 10yrs and 13yrs with autism. My eldest son also has a mild intellectual disability and Obsessive compulsive disorder

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...

never ending, exhausting, and also rewarding when my children have a positive experience or achievement. I have a rare medical condition myself and find that I have to also be a 'carer' for myself.

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 ...

Financially- expenses take all available funds, I have extensive debts in order to survive, buy basic supplies, pay for therapy costs for the children. There is no money left to pay for a holiday or a break, for a basic night away etc.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

### 3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

- Continue carers bonus.
- Carers discount card for food, petrol, therapy services, etc
- Carers super funds started with a government contribution
- housing grant to put towards purchase of  More information is attached on a separate sheet
- purchase to rent scheme →
- 4. **Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices**
- assistance to plan for the future of our children, etc  
I think the Government can better help carers by ...
- increasing financial support to carers
- increasing housing assistance to carers
- increase in home respite services
- as above #3 suggestions
- sibling program  More information is attached on a separate sheet for other children in the family
- recognition of 'Young Carers'.

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

6.6.08

Date