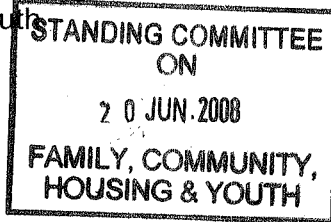


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission No. 266
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 30/6/08



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...

As the only family member taking care of my
invalid father I have faced the 'system' and
it's challenge head on. I want to make it
a better experience - for everyone.

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...

to monitor + take care of my father, offer him
a comfortable quality of life in his own
home, where he's happy, for as long as I can.

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 ...

isolation, loneliness, frustration. Getting access to
services is a challenge. I work full time, and
between the national helpline and local council
it involved many phone calls, I didn't know
where to go. I felt helpless, no one would take
responsibility.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

navigating the system, someone to sit with and go through my options on an individual level. Someone to help me take dad to appointments - I have no other family and sole responsibility, it's stressful & hard for me to do alone.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

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

Not penalising our parents if they are self funded retirees. If they reach a certain age, say 80, offer them the same benefits. He's worked & paid taxes all his life, and keeping him "out of the system" saves the government money.

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

Giovanna

Print your name

17/6/08

Date