

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

STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON

Submission No. 328  
(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...

1. I am a primary carer along with my wife of our disabled daughter
2. I believe carers are being used by Government as revenue savers.
3. The system works off crisis & the No. of people in crisis is growing
4. This gives little attention to carers being able to plan their child's future.

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...

As a parent we will always care for our daughter - but - she deserves to have the same opportunities as any-one else. My role has been to advocate for my daughter - unfortunately the "system" doesn't appreciate the input from families & decision are more around the \$ amount than the support required.

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 ...

- A never-ending battle to get appropriate support.
- A system that works at crisis level - this isn't be able to plan ahead
- D.H.S making decision on support required without consulting family.
- Decision-making from P.H.S level is slow & unreliable.
- The level of quality staff is hard to maintain.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

- Although I need support in my role as a carer - what I need is a good working partnership where we can plan for the future for a better life & more productive life for my daughter - In this process we would have planned time lines & available resources guaranteed.

At the moment you plan nothing happens - you get old + in crisis = D.H.S takes over no planning, just control.

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 ...

- Get real - Get out of the crisis needs controlling system - ~~play~~ Don't just play catch-up - do it. - The system is top heavy there needs to be more face to face case management - Need to develop working partnerships with families = to plan both for the support but the future in real time lines - when the person with a disability is ready not when they & their family get in to crisis.

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

Kevin

Signature

Print your name

Kevin

Date

17-6-08

Postal Address