

A.O.C. 1/7/08

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

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 a carer of my son who is a seven year old boy who suffers from sever Autism Spectrum Disorder. I am totally committed to his care without the opportunity to seek employment due to him needing constant care. The limited amount of funds received on Carers Allowance makes it extremely difficult to survive but the importance of caring for my son overrides the difficulty of financial strain.

The role and contribution of carers in society is important, I feel that my role as carer for my son is important because if my son did not have me he would be required to be cared for in a Special Care Accommodation Unit being a burden on the government. This is something I would never consider for my son. I would prefer to live on the poverty line on the streets than loose my son. If the government increased the income for people on Carers Allowance it would make life much more easier to survive.

As a carer, I again express my concerns about the lack of financial support carers receive which leave us being forced to live very close to the poverty line. We as carers of children do not have the choice of gaining employment to survive make it much more difficult believe me life is hard enough having a love one who is a young child who suffers in this way already.

Carers need help with financial support and access to better activities for people with disabilities they are human too. One thing I would like to mention as an important point there is very limited activities, for young children with autism. This is something the government should really look at.

I think that the Government can better help carers in the following way :

- Provide better financial support for people on carer payment caring for young children with server disabilities.
- Provide better access to professional services to people with disabilities. These services need to be free of charge without limit to access to enable the care for those who require without the funds to best care for their children. When these

professional services charge amounts exceeding one hundred dollars. I am aware that the Medicare do reimburse some funds but even with this help it is still hard to be able to obtain these services because with limited income its hard to survive as it is.

I wish to thank you for taking the time to consider my views as part of the Government's Inquiry. I look forward to reviewing any recommendations you make to improve life for carers in Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff

24/06/08