

A.O.C. 2/7/08

Submission No. 432

(Inq into better support for carers)

26 June 2008

Secretary

*Inquiry into Better Support for Carers*

*Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth*

*PO Box 6021*

*House of Representatives*

*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 Youths Inquiry into Better Support for Carers.*

*My role as a carer is my husband and I care for our son who is 33 years old and has Cerebral Palsy with an interlectual and physicial disability as well as epilepsy that cannot be controlled. We contribute to society by being his full time carers all through his 33 years and not getting hardly any respite for him or for us. I think this should be recognized by the Government of the big amount of \$ we are saving you.*

*Our caring role affects our life by the fact that we have never been away for a holiday without our son or out for dinner or a function as no one is prepared to stay with him in case he has a fit. We have found it difficult financially because I have not been able to go to work only if I want to work on week-ends and nights. With the cost of everything getting dearer we are finding it harder to get ahead and save extra for when we reach retirement age so we can stay in our own home and provide the care our son has had and needed. Our marriage is starting to get a bit frayed because we just don't get any time to spend together and also be able to go and visit our daughter and her children who live in Central Queensland so we are missing out on watching our grandchildren grow up and get to know us.*

*I would like to see more in home respite available so we do not have to put our son somewhere he is not familiar with and traumatize him for any length of time be it one night or one month. I feel that to mental health has received more funding lately in anything from the government but if things don't improve with us we will all be getting mental health funding as we have just about had enough and are getting close to retirement age and just really very tired and exhausted. Also the carers payment should*

*not be means tested or maybe the gross joint income should not be over \$90000.00 per year.*

*The practical measures that would better support us would be more accommodation available with support and also more funding for in home support.*

*Thank you for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committee's inquiry. I look forward to reviewing the recommendations you make in order to improve support for carers.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Penny*