

Submission No. 450

(Inq into better support for carers)

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. 2/7/06

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 mother carer and have been for the past 25 plus years. During this time there have been positive changes in the treatment available to people with mental health issues. I spent all my working life in hospitals and Nursing home and can say that there have been some very positive changes there too. It is reassuring to know that the Government is listening and willing to make changes, however there are gaps in services particularly for mental health sufferers, that if filled would make the role of the carer easier and enhance the life of the sufferers. I welcome the opportunity to put my ideas forward

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 providing care for a family member in a climate where the alternatives are either not focused enough, be attractive or too expensive to be affordable ...

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

Insufficient money to enable carer to participate in social activities in the same way as our friends do because we are unable to leave the dependant one for more than 24 hrs ...

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*More information is attached on a separate sheet*

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

As a carer, I need help with a more diverse funding option so that carer can holiday without needing to take dependant and the dependant can access to options...

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*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 creating specific access to accommodation options for people requiring supervised care for people prior to the age of fifty

Day care centers catering to people with disabilities, both physical and mental with transport to and from these centers

Access to funding to provide mentoring, education ,holidays, and social development

Funded access to psychiatrist and psychologist in a manner that enables carer to have information about the cared for

Access to councilors for carers

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*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

*Print your name*

Elayne and Ken

*Date*

24<sup>th</sup> June 2008