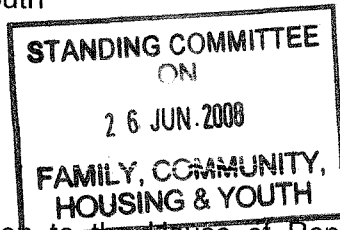


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission No. 517
(Inq into better support for carers)



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...

while there are already ^{good} services and support for carers, they could be streamlined and improved.

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 support my son through a long + serious illness. This includes: practical day-to-day support such as providing transport to appointments + some personal care; emotional support to help him deal with huge changes to his body + his life; financial support so he has somewhere secure + pleasant to live, good nutrition, warm clothes, medications + equipment.
+ Advocacy within hospital system. 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 ...

As I am unable to work because of my caring duties, being short of money is a constant stress, and often prevents me from buying things that I need, such as clothes and food, or getting my car serviced or repaired. I am currently studying and working on setting up a very small consultancy business, as time permits. It has been a struggle to find time to do this, and to be able to keep appointments. More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

Good primary health care for me + my family.

The G.P. crisis (lack of G.P.s) has been a problem for us as we lost our ^{family} G.P. just before my son's serious illness.

I appreciate help with caring for my bad back through

massage therapy funded by Carerlinks, also

counselling through this service (only 6 sessions though).

Respite Care in short term. 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 ...

Streamlining and better resourcing existing services.

For example, the waiting time for Carer Support Worker at Carerlinks North (Commonwealth Respite +

Carelink Centre) is currently 16 weeks! Improve health care crisis by ^{State + Federal} working together to increase supply of doctors + nurses in the community and in public hospitals. Increase funding to public hospitals.

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

PENELOPE

Print your name

23.6.08

Date