

Submission No. 621
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 8/7/08

The Committee Secretary,
Standing Committee on Family, Community etc
P.O. Box 6021,
House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
Canberra A.C.T. 2600.

Dear Secretary,

My role as a carer of eight or on half years is a 24/7/52 type job as I care for a friend/partner who is virtually a four year old in an eighty one year old body, following cardiac surgery and strokes in 2000. He also is an epileptic with further disability resulting in a ruptured achilles tendon in 2006. In addition he suffers moderate aphasia.

It is 5am and this is the hour I used to rise to wash & clean when I had three young pre-schoolers. However now I am in my seventies!

Recently we moved from an idyllic, medically isolated town of Eden, to this

Central Coast Retirement Village. The financial burden of this move has been considerable but the physical location of this new address has proved desirable for the friend for whom I care. I just long for the friendships of twenty-two years that I have left behind.

As a conscientious & devoted carer, I wouldn't depart from this role & abandon this person in need of care, however, whilst the focus of caring is always on the disabled person government bodies who have contact with me carers in an administrative manner, could do well to initiate, using trained social workers, a more personal form of enquiry.

I would just love someone, to whom I could honestly reply, to ask "ME" how I feel & how well I am coping? as I continue in my role of carer/pretender."

The carer allowance barely pays for petrol these days, much less all the other price increases.

Please listen to our requests for support,
Yours, Faithfully,