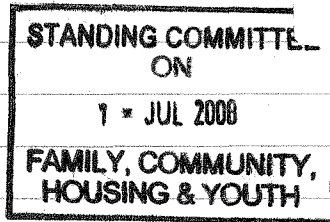


A.O.C. 8/7/08

23 June 2008



My name is Nicole and I am a single mum caring for my non-verbal autistic son, Lachlan who is 6 yrs old.

My son needs constant supervision 24hrs a day as he has no idea of danger or self awareness.

Often Lachlan is awake during the night so therefore I'm awake as well as our home is not safe enough for Lachlan to be wandering around at night. We are in a Public Housing house and have been waiting for a suitable home for 3 years.

I'm also holding down a part time job to try and increase our financial situation as the carer's allowance and single parenting payment is just not enough to live off. Paying bills and my sons very limited diet of "Patties Party Pies" that cost between \$9 - \$10 dollars a box and going through five boxes a week as well as paying for carers for just 4hrs a week. I'm often left to put food on my credit card. So we can never save money, and with Bills and cost of petrol on the increase.

We need a new car as my car is over 20yrs old and is slowly deteriorating.

We need a new computer and printer to help increase my sons communication but I just can't afford it.

Lachlan also likes Sight + Sound movement toys and although we can rent them Lachlan accidentally breaks them as he doesn't understand that dropping them will break them. And are very expensive to replace.

At times I feel like I'm just holding on to my  
Sanity. Between tantrums and no-sleep its just not  
a way to live. But I do it because I love my  
son and thats what keeps me going.  
I wish I could afford Occupational therapy  
and Speech therapy but I just cant afford it.

Please read this we need help.

Yours Sincerely.

Nicole