

SIR RODEN CUTLER CHARITIES INC

Patrons Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC, Alan Jones AO
Principal Advisor Lady Cutler

Incorporation No. 9875846
ABN 95 233 154 485 CFN 17234



2 July 2008

Ms Annette Ellis
Chair
Parliamentary Committee
Carers Inquiry

Rec. 10/7/08
Submission No. 700
(Inq into better support for carers)

Dear Annette *Annette*

I am writing to you on behalf of our Charity to support in the strongest possible terms, the submission to you from Mrs Tania Hayes.

As you know, Tania is our present Carers Ambassador, and was invited by Lady Cutler to be the Charity's Carer of the Year for 2007. Lady Cutler was so moved by Tania's inspiring story that she wrote the foreword to Tania's best selling book 'Love has no Limits'.

Tania, together with her wheelchair bound husband Warren, joined other members of the Charity on our 'Wheelchair Roll' to the capital cities from March to May, where she announced our national 'Search for a Carer's Story' Campaign – now in full swing,

Tania's submission is extremely well researched and presented, detailing her life as a fulltime carer for her husband Warren over the past 11 years, and outlining 5 suggestions for further government support.

She cites a 2007 Deakin University study that found carers have 'the lowest collective wellbeing of any group yet discovered'.

Therefore her 5 suggestions (also endorsed by Carers Australia and their other national ambassadors) in the areas of

- Integrated Carer Support
- Carers Financial Security
- Carers Workforce Participation
- Carers Health and Wellbeing
- Carers Education and Training

are all worthy of your closest examination, deliberation and action.

To compliment Tania's submission, we present the attached submission from Sir Roden Cutler Charities

Yours truly,

Patrick Condon
Patrick Condon
Chairman

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SIR RODEN CUTLER CHARITIES SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY 'CARERS' INQUIRY

We are a public benevolent institution registered as a charity which provides direct relief in cases of disability, distress, helplessness, poverty, sickness and suffering, where those cases arouse pity and compassion in the community

Through our volunteers' work with the disabled, elderly, and seriously or terminally ill, we became acutely aware of what daily life is like for 'the carer'.

Our Charity began a 'Caring for Carer's' program in 2003, providing carers with theatre tickets, restaurant vouchers, etc, to give them some of 'the little extras' we all take for granted.

In 2006, we initiated our Lady Cutler's Carer of the Year.

In 2008, we have launched our national 'Search for a Carer's Story' Campaign.

We have embraced the cause of carers to raise community awareness of the incredibly difficult situations faced by carers on a daily basis, and to help as many as possible however we can.

We feel that at the very least, they all 'deserve a medal' and a vote of thanks.

We are giving the first 3000 who share their carer's story with us this year, a medal and certificate of appreciation.

Over the next 5 years, we would like to see:-

- a medal and certificate presented to every carer receiving a carers payment or allowance
- a 'Carers Bank' of 'life's little luxuries' established for carers, and supported by every major retailer, all pubs and clubs, theatres and other entertainment venues. All would deposit vouchers into the 'Carers Bank'. Carers associations and community groups could then make 'withdrawals', and give carers one or two of the 'life's little luxuries' we all take for granted.
- A 'School Visit' scheme established as proposed by Tania Hayes – she and Warren visit schools and tell their story and encourage students who are carers to share their stories as well, thus giving students and teachers an idea of how hard life can be for the school aged carer – all 180,000 of them around Australia.

By succeeding in these three aims over the next 5 years we can take carers to a much higher level of collective wellbeing.