

A.O.C. 14/7/08

[15th June 2008]

Submission No. 716
(Inq into better support for carers)

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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.

The Committee is seeking a better understanding of the situation for Carers in Australia. Use any or all of the following starting points to help you write your letter:

I feel that my role is
24/7, Never ending, stressful, and isolating.

I contribute to Australian society by

Saving the government, bucket loads, as quoted by Kevin Rudd, with the care of my son. ...

I face the following problems

Ageing, Nil suitable housing, and care, for my son when I die.

I can't fully participate in social life because

Very little respite offered.

I am financially struggling because of

Pension does not go far. Single Refugees get monthly allowance of \$1,890.00 and an additional \$580.00 in social assistance. Pensioners receive \$1,012.00. After paying 50 years of taxes, to the Government.

I would like to work (full-time or part-time) but have the following issues to deal with

At 67 years still working, a few hours to supplement part pension, with help, from my daughter, to assist with my disabled son.

I worry about my future because ...

I worry about my sons future, if I become ill or die,
What happens to him then?

The lack of quality housing and care for disabled is appalling.

More financial support for housing and care is desperately needed from
the government.

The things that stress me the most about being a Carer are ...

Very little support, from government, how long can I keep doing this
caring role, before health fails.

Lack of teaching centers

to assist the disabled, who can learn, to supplement their income, and
their quality of life, and self esteem.

**Remember that it will help the Committee to understand your point if
you can support it with examples from your own experience.**

**The Committee would also like to hear of any ideas, solutions or
strategies that will support you in providing care. Use any or all of
the following suggestions for getting started:**

I need help with

More funded respite, especially weekends, as by the end of the week I
am tired, and need to recharge batteries.

I need to have

Help in the home and garden, as a sole ageing parent it can all become
a bit too much. Small handyman jobs, and lawn mowing etc! Which would
enable me to give my son a better quality of life, by taking him out
more, and cut down my workload.

I think the Government can better help Carers by ...

Funding to provide quality housing and care for the disabled, and to
listen to what the parents want, for their loved ones, instead of
telling them how it will be! After all we are the voice of our children

Who cannot speak for themselves?

**Remember that it will help the Committee to understand your idea if you
can support it with reasons that it will work or examples of things it
will help you to achieve.**

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

[Yvonne