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**From:**  
**Sent:** Saturday, 5 July 2008 4:21 AM  
**To:** Committee, FCHY (REPS)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into better support for carers

**Submission No. 852**  
(Inq into better support for carers)

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

3 July 2008

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 three and half years ago my beautiful little girl was born with Trisomy13 a condition I had never heard of an it came as huge shock as nothing had been detected in my ultrasounds and blood tests. Her condition causes sever health and mental delay development. I was told that my daughter would have a very short life a few weeks and if I was luck maybe a few months.. When I left the Royal Women's Hospital to take my daughter home I asked if I could get any assistance and was told because I had my parents and brothers and sisters I wasn't able to get any home help. I believe this is very wrong as my family also have their own work commitments and families to care for. After a year of struggling my daughter had been admitted into the Sunshine Hospital and whilst she was in hospital the nurses where shocked to find out that I wasn't receiving any home help and organised the social worker to come and see me. Consequently I received some home help and respite and my daughter was put on waiting lists for early intervention services, which is now receives.

As a carer, I feel that my role is an important part of what makes up our society.. Although the job is very stressful physically and mentally it can also be very rewarding to see your child make progress. We provide physical and emotional support day in day out for the most vulnerable people of our community. We have a very important role to play because without us the Australian Government would have spend billions of dollars a year creating enough facilities to cater and care for disabled and those that suffer from chronic and mental illness and not forgetting the frail who are unable to care for themselves..

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As a carer, I find it extremely frustrating that the Government are unrealistic on the cost of caring for a disabled child.: bathing seat, mobility chairs, special toys (switch toys), nappies ect. The cost of raising a disabled child are much greater than that of child without special needs.

I think the Government can better help carers by looking at the cost of living and raising the amount a family is able to earn before your payments are cut back . I stay at home because their aren't any child care centres that cater for a severely disabled child and my daughter has lots of medical and early intervention

appointments. So I'm unable to work more and my husband has taken a second job in order to keep up with increases in mortgage repayment, food, clothing, petrol ect.

The Government want you to save for your retirement, have private health insurance if your over 40 how can we possibly do that we are not able to make more than \$65,000.00 before your benefits are cut. There is no opportunity to save money for our daughter's care should something happen to us. I think families should be able to earn a lot more before benefits are cut

I think the Government can better help carers by increasing the amount you are able to earn before benefits are cut or provide mobility chairs, bathing seats, hand rails, lifting devices for free. Provide free respite for carers because our health and wellbeing is important so that we continue providing the best care possible.

Whether you have family or not than if you are caring for someone with special needs that you are able to receive respite care.

I would also like to add that Australia allows people who have already reached retirement age to migrate here and after a waiting period pay them a pension, yet people like me (CARERS) who do the country a great service have to struggle..

Maybe there should a two types of carers payments one for those who are caring for the sick and one for disabled so that the restriction on income reflect the costs of needs of each category.

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