

AOC 17/7/08

Submission No. 899
(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
AUSTRALIA

3rd 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.

As a Carer, I feel that my role is too difficult and insufficient. Other members of the household are neglected at best.

I face the following problems:

I cannot cook a meal, have a shower, or go to the toilet without a second carer present. Other carers have withdrawn their services due to my son's 'challenging' behaviours.

I need 24/7 assistance from professional staff that regularly rotates shifts. My son, who is only 10 y/o, needs a safe environment with lots of secure play areas and room to move.

I think the Government can better help Carers by building and supporting institutions that give permanent care for children that are not suited to a 'normal' housing situation. Temporary respite is not adequate when the family has broken down and become too ill to cope.

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,
Philip