

25th June 08

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AOC 17/7/08

Submission No. 912
(Inq into better support for carers)

Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth
P.O.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.

I have an intellectually handicapped daughter aged 43 who is in a Service Provider Residential Home with 8 other clients. She also attends an Adult Training Centre daily travelling to and from by taxi. My daughter comes home to me on alternate weekends plus all public holidays and for vacation holidays. I have the responsibility of taking her to outside events – doctors, dentist, orthopaedic etc as well as sport and leisure occasions.

While I admit I am not her primary carer the above is a burden in time and finances. I am pensioner age 76 yrs. I find it difficult to "keep up with things" in the way that I used to. I have to plan my life around the needs of my daughter which at times has meant that things I want to do for myself eg short break or holiday have to be put on the back burner in hopes that it can come about at a later date.

As far as finances are concerned my daughter's pension and mobility allowance is consumed totally by her expenses in accommodation and Training Centre and Transport costs. If we want to go on holiday together the whole expense falls on me.

Even if she wants to go to the movies it costs me petrol plus entry for both of us.

If I have to arrange for someone else to take her then that person has to be paid for

Support of a card for my daughter admitting the carer for free, or at least a discounted price, explaining that of necessity my daughter has to have a carer with her because she cannot manage on her own.

Financial support for me to cope with covering costs when my daughter is at home such as food petrol etc. would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committee's Inquiry.

I look forward to reviewing the recommendations you make in order to improve support for carers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the letter 'B' followed by a dot.

B.