

Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers A.O.C. 23/6/08
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
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 am submitting to the Inquiry because...

The role of "Carer is not understood & often taken for granted.

1. The role and contribution of Carers in society

As a carer, I feel that my role is...

To assist my disabled husband with everything he needs to enjoy life despite his disabilities.

Health Care – mental & physical – I act as interpreter with Doctors & ancillary health care providers – oversee medication regime. Assess & oversee all medical, dental, ancillary treatments.

Mobility – plan his outings within his limitations – ensure he is safe.

Communication – Ensure that all his personal & daily living transactions run smoothly & that there have been no misunderstandings because of his language disabilities.

2. The barriers to social and economic participation for carers

As a carer, I face the following problems ...

Lack of understanding of my role – eg *"He's your husband, it's expected that you would provide all his "Care"*.

Difficult to explain to an employer the need to accompany my husband to appointments.

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

1. Raise awareness in the community of the role of a "Carer"

2. Raise awareness in the community of the effects of disability on a family.

4. Strategies to assist Carers to access opportunities and choices

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

I would like to see more training schemes that are Carer specific.

Provide/enable support groups to form locally – at the moment they are too spread out.

Increase the Carer Allowance in recognition of the money Carers save the Community.

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

Jill

6th June 2008