

27 June 2008

Lena

Ms Annette Ellis MP  
Committee Chair  
Inquiry into Better Care for Our Carers  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,  
Community, Housing and Youth  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Ellis

As a Carer, I wish to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth's Inquiry into Better Care for Our Carers.

As a carer, I provide the following support .... *My Son a 25 year old with Autism, I work mon - Friday 9.30 - 2.30*

I face the following problems ... *not enough respite, not enough funding for school holiday programmes as it cuts out at 25 years of age, I have no-one to look after him in holidays, from Nov this year*

I can't fully participate in social activities because ...

*there is no support for him after hours, which means I have to take him with me as he plays up on other's.*

I am financially struggling because of ... *we are not eligible for Centrelink benefits if Matthew is away from home anymore than 6 nights a year we lose carers payment*

I need help with ...

*unfair!! (this means hospital as well)*  
*mood swings, looking for homes for Matthew + funding. help with doctors, scripts, visits, + medical charts etc etc*

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

*School holidays, after ~~set~~ hours day support which ends at 5pm*

I need assistance to ... find activities for Matthew to participate in with he is bored at home which leads to bad behaviour.  
I worry about my future because ... there is no funding for group homes, we all need a life!

The things that cause me stress are ...

petrol ~~per~~ prices running my son backwards and forwards. no group homes

I think the Government can better help Carers by ... paying everyone carers payment + allowance. we still have to look after our kids whether they are at home or hospice

Thank you for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committee's Enquiry. I look forward to reading the report and reviewing any recommendations you make to improve life for Carers in Australia.

Yours sincerely

**Lena**

no after school activities