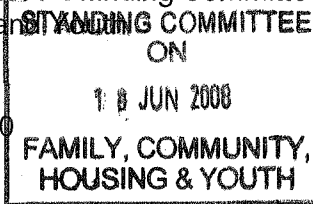


Committee Secretary  
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,  
Community, Housing and Youth  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



A.O.C. 27/6/08

Submission No. 233

(Inq into better support for carers)

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...

I am very concerned that there is such a shortage in low cost public housing for people on pensions. Big on the side, mental & disability when you have a mental illness does not mean there is much money for reasonable accommodation.  More information is attached on a separate sheet

1. The role and contribution of carers in society

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

→ Critical to the survival of my son  
- otherwise he would be homeless, probably dead as he says he is only alive because of the family  
- difficult at times  
- no choice - I love my son  
 More information is attached on a separate sheet

2. The barriers to social and economic participation for carers

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

- Financial difficulties due to his unwell (mental) state where he spends money unwisely  
- difficulty in organising his money  
- noting with bureaucracies  
- emotional, ongoing grief - Struggle I do access to counselling which is made available  
 More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

- 1) Finances
- 2) Emotional Support at times and Workplace Flexibility to deal with the crises that arise

More information is attached on a separate sheet

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

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

- 1) Improving some of the application forms/access to Carer's payments they do not help to Mentally Ill.
- 2) Making Carer Payment/ Allowance easier
- 3) Housing
- 4) Carer Retreats (Free or subsidised)

More information is attached on a separate sheet

I have just been on a 2 day one ~~to~~ emotionally the strongest I have felt for 7 years since my son has been unwell. It helps me now to carry on this chronic role as carer. I have care home feelings

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

Sue  
Print your name

14/6/08  
Date

## Living

Due to my son's mental illness (schizo-affective disorder) he is very difficult to live with & also uses drugs as he does not want to take the medication. I have 2 younger children still at school & he is very disruptive to the family's harmony.

He needs assistance in his daily living yet can be independent with some aspects of his life - if there were more psycho-social rehab. places (he has just had 2 years & had to move out, which precipitated another psychotic episode & eventually hospitalisation which cost him his first job in 3 years) He now has to live on the Youth Allowance, rental assistance & rent a \$150 druggie unpleasant flat on his own - & my husband & I supplement his living. He wants to come home but we are concerned that the Y12 son will go down hill. It puts us in a very unhappy, difficult situation)

More low priced housing would give more choices in situations like ours.

I am happy to talk to anyone further about these thoughts.

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