

From: Julie
Sent: Wednesday, 18 June 2008 11:46 AM
To: Committee, Reps (REPS)

Submission No. 243
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 27/6/08

Subject: Better support for carers

18 June 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 my role is to care for my 12 year old daughter who has suffers from three chronic diseases, the first of which was diagnosed nine years ago.

I face multiple problems, not least of which is support for her at school. Whilst she is fortunate enough to have an aide (0.6) – we have struggled to achieve this and every year face this struggle when we reapply, and we can never presume that we will receive this assistance the following year. My daughter's condition is **life threatening and her medical regime complicated**, yet her needs are not readily accommodated. I understand and support that children diagnosed with conditions such as autism readily receive funding for classroom assistance but don't understand why my daughter's conditions are deemed less needy.

I was, against my principles, prepared to send her to a private high school. My enquiries at the private school, regarding supporting children with special needs was met with, 'I think your daughter would be better suited at another school'. And I hope that she is better suited at a state school, it's certainly my preference, particularly as the state school is closer to home, and therefore easier for me to get to quickly when the need arises. I still face the question of whether she'll have the support she needs in the classroom next year, her first year of high school.

I, as do many parents of children with special needs, **need help with addressing schools and seeking support to enable our children to participate safely and to not be excluded.**

I think the Government can better help carers like myself by addressing the **needs of children at school** with special needs.

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

Julie