



Committee Secretary
Inquiry into better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family
Community, Housing and Youth

Submission No. 264
(Inq into better support for carers)

Dear Secretary

A.O.C. 30/6/08

I wish to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth Inquiry into better support for Carers

I am submitting to the inquiry because

I was the carer of a totally disabled Husband for 15 years as well as the unofficial carer of my youngest Son until his death I now find myself the full time carer of my 23 year old Grandson

1/ The role and contribution of carers in society

As a carer I feel that my role is

To give the support and best care that I can, to make sure that the person I care as did the person I cared for has the peace of mind that living at home gives

2/ The barriers to social and economic participation

As a carer I face the following problems

I can not always pay my bills without the help of The Salvation Army
I can not have the social life my friends who are not carers have
I can not be a Wife, Partner or Grandmother I have to be a full time Nurse
Housekeeper and Handy person and have had to learn basic Car Maintenance
Add to that Social Isolation like most carers face

3/ The Practical measures required to better support Carers

As a Carer I need help with

Centrelink Staff to be trained to understand the strain Carers are under and to be told that asking a carer to 'put the (deceased) person on the phone' is stressful to say the least this happened to me on the death of my Son
Financial assistance to cover extra medical expenses \$49 a week does not cover personal care (showers ect) extra medication or aids to living
The Annual bonus is in a lot of cases the way to take 2 weeks Respite care once a year

4/ Strategies to assist Carers to access opportunities and choices

I think the Government should provide Generation based Nursing Homes it is not conducive to improving the well being of young people to put them into accommodation with the elderly or vice versa

I also think that the 63 days respite time allowed per year should be looked into most carers take 2 week blocks ,when it is available this is because the one week remaining is a waste of time and effort one week is unsettling to a person needing full time care it takes them that long to settle in and then they have to be moved again if an extra week is taken inadvertently, the Carers payment is cancelled by Centrelink Youth housing should be investigated the waiting list for such in Ballarat is an estimated 8 years there is no Nursing Home Accommodation for young people I worry as to where my Grandson will go if I Die before he does his condition is such that he can not live with family members

As a Grandparent who has raised 2 Grandchildren on the death of my Son

I ask the Committee to recognises the growing number of Grandparent Carers not as Parents but as Carers

Thank you for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committees Inquiry

I look forward to reviewing any recommendations you make to improve the life of Carers in Australia

Yours Sincerely

Aileyne

16 June 2008