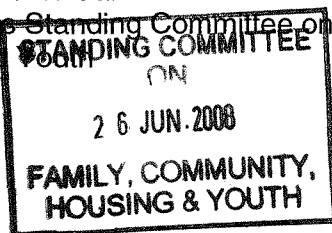


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

A.O.C. 7/7/08

Submission No. 527
(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 a carer who has no choice and really not a full life because I am also a single mother.

It is very stressfull taking care of a person with a mental illness - I myself had a breakdown due to all of the stress.

I have had to learn along the way how to deal with a mental illness

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... ~~Not~~

Having to be able to cope with situations of violence and anger out bursts - finding the right help for my daughter - she has lost all faith in therapists and psychologists "no one can help me" "my life is screwed" Carers are doing the work of psychologists, Nurses, etc etc where do I go now for help?

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 ...

Being able to afford to socialise and go out without feeling guilty. Not having sufficient money to buy new tyres for my car, pay bills and buy what we need on an everyday needs basis - feeling that the government don't understand or care about us and how difficult the life of a carer is and the life of the person who suffers the mental illness - it has torn our e many families apart.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

~~17th May~~
~~24th May To 2nd June~~

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ... Housing - we rent privately - \$340 per week!!
finances - finding the right psychologist for my daughter
for treatment - she is getting much worse. - Many programmes
of support stop at 24! a person's Mental Illness doesn't just
stop at a certain age!! WHY IS THIS SO? More help with
support groups for my daughter - Help to come to our
~~home cos she doesn't go~~ More information is attached on a separate sheet
~~out in public = social phobia~~

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

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

Increasing the Carers payment and Carers Allowance
So that we don't have to live on the poverty line also
So that we can pay Utilities bills etc etc - Run a car
Have money to pay for counselling. More facilities for
people with a Mental Illness to be placed at a time
of Crisis - ~~the~~ violence - More information is attached on a separate sheet
psychosis etc - etc - Police need to understand Mental
illness and not treat the person as a criminal

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.

more education for police for sure.
Yours sincerely

I Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak

Print your name

PATRICIA

Date

13-6-08