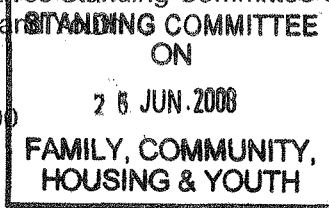


A.O.C. 7/7/08

Submission No. 534

(Inq into better support for carers)

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



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 extremely concerned about the current inadequate support available to many carers of the mentally ill.*

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...

*To collaborate with mental health workers & outreach support agencies in providing efficient & insightful support for our mentally ill family members.*

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 ...

*Our twin daughters' chronic schizophrenia has dramatically impacted their everyday living skills & they need constant assistance with budgeting, personal hygiene, domestic chores etc. Their paranoid symptoms often cause them to be hostile. Communication from clinicians & outreach workers is often extremely poor.*

More information is attached on a separate sheet

**3. The practical measures required to better support carers**

As a carer, I need help with ...

Providing a safety net for our  
daughters. Their illness makes them  
vulnerable to others with predatory  
behaviours. Assistance in providing  
on-going living skill training.

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 ...

Providing a better resourced mental  
health system. Ensuring that those employed  
in mental health agencies are well trained  
& aware of the importance of including  
carers in their support planning.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

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

PATRICIA

Print your name

12-06-2008

Date