

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. 23 JUN 2008
7/7/08

STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
30 JUN 2008
FAMILY, COMMUNITY,
HOUSING & YOUTH

Dear Secretary

Submission No. 538

(Inq into better support for carers)

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 mother and carer to a severely
developmentally delayed 2½ daughter. She has
fallister-Killian Syndrome. She can not talk, crawl, walk,
feed herself ... etc.

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 keep Sarah healthy and happy.
- To ensure she has all of the best medical & therapeutic care possible
- To cope with constant disappointment and worry.
- To keep our family running despite Sarah's condition.

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 ...

- I dont know what the future holds for us as a family
- I spend half my life in waiting rooms
- I never feel like I am doing enough to stimulate Sarah.
- I dont feel like I really know how to best teach Sarah
the skills she needs

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

- Planning for the future.
- Building a team of people who can help and support us
- Having someone to call like Anecko but during working hours (ie when husband is at work and I am on my own).

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 ...

Building teams. I want to be frequently connected to Sarah's Physio, OT, Speech Therapist, Social Worker and a medical professional (- maybe a nurse?) and other local mums of disabled kids. You could create a team who support a group of families and fund us meeting at least monthly.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

Also I need Sarah's childcare funded for 2 days per week and maybe some funding for her sister to have childcare too. 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

Rebecca

Print your name

15th June 2008

Date