

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

Submission No. 591

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C 8/7/08

JUL 2008
FAMILY, COMMUNITY,
HOUSING & YOUTH

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 full time carer for my husband (57yrs old) who has Huntingtons Disease, my son at 23yrs of age has tested positive and a 26 yr old son yet to be tested for this insidious disease. I implore you please don't let this submission be a waste of time and wasted paper exercise.

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 be on duty 24/7, a nurse of which I'm definitely not!! Try to the best of my ability to keep my husband at home surrounded by family and friends for as long as humanly possible, be patient and understanding when the aggressive outbreaks occur, keep up the medication, attend doctors, neurologist appointments, keep him stimulated

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 ...

Not enough facilities to accommodate people with a mental illness
What will happen if I the carer becomes ill and unable to care what facility other than a nursing home can be offered. H.D needs to be made more public and get as much air play as cancer, alzheimers, parkinsons, motor neuron

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

maintain my home, maintain my sanity, have more quality time to myself, eg monthly massages, meditation sessions, yoga classes
short breaks away, it appears there is not enough funding for this sort of thing. I often ask myself if my husband was in Full time care How much would that cost the government?

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 ...

More H.D awareness, more younger age facilities for people with a mental illness, more money for research, funding for couples who need to take part in the I.V.F programme so as their children can be spared of the disease, and my grandchildren. I ask the Government to walk a mile in my shoes and see what its like

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

Print your name

Gayne

Date

29.06.08