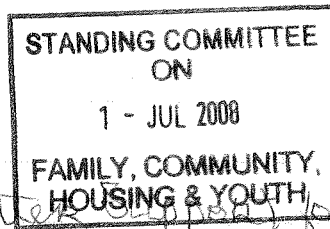


25-6-08

A.O.C. 8/7/08



Secretary
 Inquire into Better Support for Carers
 Standing Committee on Family, Community Housing & Youth
 PO Box 6021
 House of Representatives
 Parliament House
 Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,
 I wish to make a submission to the
 House of Representatives Standing Committee, Housing &
 Youth's Inquiry into Better Support for Carers.

I care for my wife 24 hours per day — she was diagnosed
 with MS in 1986 & is now classed as a quadriplegic,
 I shower, dress, lift my wife in & out of bed & do
 everything — she has been in a wheelchair for 21 years,
 I have been doing the above for that length of time.

In the past 8 years I have had radiotherapy & surgery
 for skin cancer — we have been battling all this time
 to get HELP — & when we need it — they say they "have run
 out of money". So my wife was only able to get respite
 for a week & that was the 1ST TIME EVER.

When I get sick & go to hospital — help is needed to care
 for my wife — actually for the last 5 years I could
 have done with a carer myself.

Also when I need to go to Brisbane for specialist appointments
 it is extremely hard to get a carer for the day — at home

Because of the lack of Government Funds — we have been forced to get Private health cover for \$3,000 each per year — so when I go to hospital my wife comes too.

It costs more money when you are disabled for house renovations & surrounds, wheelchairs, shower chair on wheels etc.

The Government should realise that I am saving the taxpayer \$1500 per week by looking after my wife — & her NOT being in a nursing home.

So you can see the carers allowance of \$100.60 per fortnight is a pittance compared to the contribution I make & it would be so wonderful if we could get the care the Government is always promising everyone "TO KEEP US IN OUR OWN HOME"

Yours Sincerely

JOHN

P.S. My age is 71 years old &
my wife's age is 67 years old