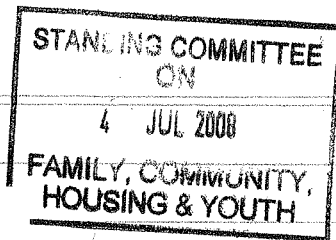


170c 4/18/02

Submission No. 1146  
(Inq into better support for carers)



3RD JULY 2008

Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and 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 on Family, Community, Housing and Youth's Inquiry into better support for carers.

I face the following problems, my husband had a massive stroke in 2004, he was the first person to have the procedure of THROMBOLYSIS performed it was successful, but because of the drug issue he had a cerebral haemorrhage which left him with DYSPHASIA and LEFT SIDE HEMIPLEGIA. Four and a half months of undivided attention by Health Care Professionals in acute and rehabilitation settings and my determination he came home. He then had seizures, which are controlled now.

My role changed to becoming the interpreter, doing or paying for household maintenance, all chores with everyday living, financial arrangements, being the driver, keeping appointments, managing medication and diet.

We joined the way way Stroke Recovery Club for support and access to Hydrotherapy Pool. joined W.A.G.S. (self funded) for more support, social contact and gaining knowledge of all

services offered to stroke survivors and carers. I was a volunteer with Hospital Art Australia another self funded organisation, that was put on hold, but with all the support and assistance we received through the SYSTEM I wanted to give something back, so with Hospital Art supplying all the drawn canvases, paints, brushes and easels and the Community Neurological Service we started Art lessons with Stroke and Multiple Sclerosis survivors, our paintings are hung in the Gosford Hospital Stroke Unit and Childrens Ward Wyong Hospital, that was for the past three years, but this year I had to cease the programme because my husband had medical problems, hospitalised and a urethral catheter. Hydrotherapy stopped and our life was stressed. The catheter has come out so we are thinking positive and see if we can achieve more goals.

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  
JUDITH