

George

30th June, 2008

ADC 4/8/08

Submission No. 1153
(Inq into better support for carers)

The Committee Secretary,
Standing Commtee 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 inquiry into Better Support for Carers.

Both my wife and I are in our early 80s and have been married for almost 60 years. My wife was diagnosed with a dementing disease about 10 years ago and I have been her carer since then. This has completely changed my lifestyle even though I have kept good health. I have not been able to do the things that I would normally have done in the later years of my life such as travelling, fishing or attending my Rotary Club, all of which I loved doing.

I love my wife dearly, but the constant caring is now affecting my nerves and I am on medication for that.

When we came into a self care retirement village, we believed that in time, we would both be able to transfer to assisted care accommodation but that is no longer so. My wife has been assessed for that but I could not accompany her and that would mean us splitting up. Devastating!.

I will continue to care for her in our home while ever I am able to do so and hope that sufficient assistance will be available for this to take place. I take avail of a a respite carer once a week for a couple of hours so that I can have a game of bowls. It is inevitable that in home nursing assistance will increase.

Yours sincerely,

G.W.