

AOC 418108
Submission No. 1170
(Inq into better support for carers)

Sent: Thursday, 3 July 2008 10:35 PM
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: Inquiry into better support for carers

I am a 52 years old and mother of five that includes twin daughters aged 24 who have the same genetic condition as their older brother who died when he was 15 years of age.

I have been a primary carer for nearly 27 years.

One of my daughters is profoundly disabled, suffering from intractable seizures, cortical blindness, scoliosis, cerebral palsy, digestive and bowel disorders, intellectual disability and autism. She is immobile and is fully dependant on others for all her needs. My other daughter has autism, intellectual delay and obsessive compulsive disorder.

I am surprised and saddened you are still asking what carers need when we have been telling you for years. It just proves what little notice is taken of us carers.

I could talk about how I still have to prove myself whenever I ask for support. Tell you how hard I have worked just keeping my children alive. How much I dreamed of being just an ordinary person with only ordinary everyday problems, a job, a social life, time to take my other children to the movies, even time off to grieve when my son died.

All I want now are residential placements for my beautiful girls while I can help them through the transition process of moving away from the family home. It will break my heart as my girls are my world but I don't want them to face the double trauma of losing both me and their home at the same time. I don't see how this can be too much to ask after all these years.

I think I have made my contribution to society as a mother and carer and I have done a good job of it too. I know I can't keep doing it anymore. I am just too tired. I want a bit of a life of my own and I can't keep begging for help.

It is now up to you, the government to figure out how to help me. You have the easy part.

Leita