

Submission No. 183
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 26/6/08

From: Noel
Sent: Monday, 16 June 2008 1:17 PM
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: Inquiry into better support for carers submission

I am writing this letter as a carer for the majority of my adult working life, both my wife and I care for my disabled autistic brother who requires nasal gastric feeding every 2 hours, who is prone to violent and abusive behaviour lasting for days at a time, who must be supervised 24/7 and is incapable of even the basic needs such as showering and toileting.

As you can understand life is sometimes extremely stressful for us, both our healths have been affected by the stress we face daily, but we face financial worries also. A lot of people don't understand that as carers we have to give up dreams that every average Australian takes for granted, such as owning our own home, having a nice car, going overseas for a holiday, as carers our income is hardly enough to get us through each week, and at 44 years of age we know when I reach 65, we have no superannuation waiting for us.

I talked to a respite worker who is paid to do what we do, and on a good fortnight he can earn excess of a \$2000, makes the carer payment of \$456.80 Per fortnight pale in comparison, yes we do this because we love the people we care for, but how about looking to ease some the financial burden we all face as carers.

I would like to see the pension rate increased for carers, and maybe some sort of a superannuation scheme setup for the futures of long term carers, I look at my future and see little, no home, no car and no income and my health is affected due to my caring role in ways I rather not talk about.

I know there is many levels of care needed for people, but those caring for people requiring extremely high level of care should be supported inline with the burden they bear.

Also the yearly carers bonus put into the budget is really needed by us all, please make it ongoing.