

Committee Secretary  
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,  
Community, Housing and Youth  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission No. 317

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 30/6/08

STANDING COMMITTEE

CM

23 JUN 2008

FAMILY, COMMUNITY,  
HOUSING & YOUTH

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 am submitting to the Inquiry because...

The Government needs to know how hard it is for carers. They play a very important role. You don't realise how important until you become a carer and have to support loved ones and others who depend on carers because they can't look after themselves. Most carers, whether paid or unpaid are just surviving.  More information is attached on a separate sheet

1. The role and contribution of carers in society  More information is attached on a separate sheet

As a carer, I feel that my role is...

very important to society. I worked for an agency, Australian Homecare Services I looked after a quadriplegic for 2 1/2 yrs and other clients and my partner who had a diabetic foot infection and stomach cancer and my elderly mother who had an ABI and was in a Nursing Home for 2 1/2 yrs.  More information is attached on a separate sheet

2. The barriers to social and economic participation for carers

As a carer, I face the following problems ...

lack of support services - such as counselling, the need to communicate with others experiencing same situation. I had to get support, counselling from Hawthorne Mental Health Clinic and Cairnmillar when I was looking after my partner taking him to chemotherapy, visiting him in Box Hill Hospital and Caritas Christ Hospice when he was in palliative care. The Cancer Support Group at Box Hill Hospital was very supportive. Also Briefline was  More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

needed  
As a carer, I need help with ...

shopping, laundry, cleaning not enough time to do all these when visiting partner in Box Hill Hospital, or taking to chemotherapy at Box Hill Hospital and visiting in palliative care at Caritas Christi Hospice daily (very stressful - draining) and visiting mother in Nursing Home weekly.  More information is attached on a separate sheet

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

I think the Government can better help carers by ...

Increasing the Carers Allowance and/or Carer Payment. It is not enough to live on especially when you are facing a difficult time in your life. It is stressful enough at the time. For months I lived on my Partner's leftover hospital meals at Box Hill Hospital and at Caritas Christi Hospice and biscuits and coffee from Box Hill Hospital and Caritas Christi Hospice because Carers Allowance was not enough to live on. I was not working. At time I had a Centrelink debt of \$4000 and I was only being paid \$36/fortnight  
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. \$36/fortnight  
Carers Allowance

Yours sincerely

SUSAN

Print your name

9/6/08

Date