

Submission No. 332
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 1/7/08

From: stephanie
Sent: Thursday, 26 June 2008
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: Fw: Submission Carers Survey

I would like a notation put on this submission:-

That in Victoria carers have been sued by workcover for injuries caused to workers while they provide care in their home.

----- Original Message -----

From: stephanie
To: fchy.reps@aph.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2008
Subject: Submission Carers Survey

Submission:-

I am a full time carer to my sister with an intellectual disability. It is a task I have taken on later in life because my sister was failing to thrive in her government house. I won't call it a home. It was more of an institution than the institution which she lived in and was closed.

I would like to specifically comment on:-

The Role and Contribution of Carers and how this can be supported.

I have found that I have all the responsibility of my sister and no legal rights as far as she is concerned.

I have no legal rights as a carer.

My role is devalued by successive governments who in our case have brought out new legislation and ignored my role altogether.

I don't rate a mention regarding my sister and my support to her 24 hours a day.

This legislation ensures I have no rights myself or over my sister who can not make decision for herself.

All services I deal with and have dealt with in the past have an anti family agenda.

I can't even get guardianship of my sister because the guardianship list have some idea this would be restrictive to my sister.

In fact it is not restrictive because she can exercise her rights through me.

If I am not the guardian then she has no rights.

I go without to provide for her and it is very difficult for me to work because of restrictions during the day as I have less than school hours.

The former day program could come for my sister anywhere between 9.30 and 10.30am and bring her back between 1.30pm and 3.30 pm and I had to be there for her.

So how would one find a job to suit these varied hours?

Now I have better care I still can't get a job because all the day programs close over the school holidays and all the day programs have different holidays. None are the same. This caused utter confusion with staff at the former house.

It meant all the residents were forced to go to the same program so that there would be staff at the house.

Whether the program suited my sister was irrelevant.

In fact it did not and my sister kept getting mentally unwell.

This caused added expense in staffing.

My sister has no rights except through me.

I am not her legal guardian.

I have no rights.

I don't have 69 days respite a year as I would have if my sister was over 65 years.

It is an entitlement for people looking after parent.

It should be an entitlement for people looking after people with disabilities.
The only way to support my role is to give me the same respite as one gets in aged care.
To fund disability the way aged care is funded.
And to have legislation to protect me.
And an Ombudsman I can complain to.
To make it easier for me to work.
And to have a decent carer payment.
Stephanie