

24 JUN 2008

FAMILY, COMMUNITY
HOUSING & YOUTH

16-06-08

Margaret

Secretary

Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
 Standing Committee on Family Community
 Housing and Youth
 P.O. 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
 on Family Community, Housing and
 Youth's Inquiry into Better Support for
 Carers.

I have two Carers in my care, my
 role as a Carer is quite busy as out of the
 blue I have had to become a Secretary,
 Taxi Driver, Nurse, Cleaner, Laundress, Cook,
 Jack of all Trades for the car, Gardener,
 and Rubbish Bin person.

David, aged 70 years has been
 diagnosed with Cancer of the Esophagus
 the cancer had spread so Doctors could
 not operate. All his food has to be
 pureed, treatment of Chemo was
 24/7, so all the home had to be

(2)

spotless, bedding washed daily as his skin just kept peeling, David had lots of side effects that some days he would shower seven (7) times a day/night.

David's treatment for Radiation was 400KM. away in Toulouse, the drive taking us the best part of 5 1/2 to 6 hours as he had to get out of the car and walk around because of his medication. C.T. Scans are always ten days before he sees his Doctor, making it two trips in 10 days which we both find very demanding and get very tired.

David also suffers from High Blood Pressure, I have to check it every-day. I control all his medication as his memory is not real good.

I also care for my 88-year old Sister-In-Law Jean, Jean is frail, very stooped, has had two complete knee replacements, she also has severe Osteoporosis of the right shoulder which can't be operated on. Jean has to be helped with dressing, normal daily personal care, cutting her food. She also has High Blood Pressure. Memory not real good and gets confused a lot.

My Caring role affects my life keeps because I can no longer do casual work (I was working in Bowen doing Mangrove work at a Resort. (casual) I had to return home immediately.

I can no longer plan ahead as you

news can tell what's going to happen next. I can't be too long away shopping as David has panic attacks.

I can't promise my Grandchildren I'll take them to the park on the beach and they get upset and that upsets every one.

I find my role as a Carer is financially difficult as some of the Medication/Lotions are not Government approved. The price of groceries and petrol are a very real problem.

I don't know how I would manage without the help of my family, but I can't and shouldn't have to rely on them.

I am also a Diabetic and with all this stress I can't control my sugar levels.

I know my problem is not as difficult as some people but if any of the Government officials would like to swap places and their financial payments with me, not for just a day or seven days but for six months you would soon realise how difficult our Carer work is and how tired and sometimes how angry I get and think we are the forgotten ones, we have no rights and are just put in the too hard basket and hope we'll go away or maybe even die.

I always believed we were the

(4)

salt of the earth, when we were young
there was no debt, we had to work,
now when we would like a little bit
of a hand no Government wants to
help us financially. Who would work
24/7 for a payment of a little over \$50.
a week.

I hope you will be considerate of
our problems as Carers and help us
financially today not in the future.

Yours Faithfully,
Margaret
MARGARET