



20th June, 2008

Submission No. 503
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 7/7/08

Committee Secretary,
Standing Committee on Family, community, Housing & Youth,
PO 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 feel that my role as carer is not taken seriously by Health or Government Services. My daughter suffers from Borderline Personality Disorder and is in St George Hospital because she tried to harm herself by jumping off her 2nd floor balcony and while in hospital she tried to harm herself again by placing a plastic bag over her head and strangling herself. As her carer and parent I should have been notified immediately of her situation but I only found out about it three days later from my daughter and not the medical staff.

I stress about what will happen when she comes out of hospital as she has broken her left ankle and fractured her right heel. She has also fractured two vertebrae in her lower back. At present she lives alone in a unit but this situation would not be ideal for her in her present situation. Where do I find her another place to live, maybe a group home with other young people or a live in carer? Where do I get any assistance or advice?

It is these types of situations that worry and stress me. I also stress about what will happen to my daughter once I am no longer here.

I would also like to be able to meet other carers and talk about my problems and get another person's insight in how to cope with people who have mental illnesses. It feels so lonely trying to cope on your own.

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 the life of carers in Australia.