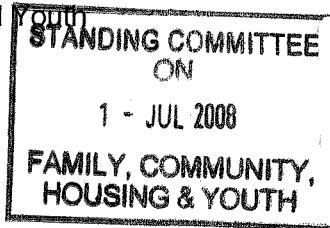


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Submission No. 645
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 8/7/08

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...

Because I require better support
and services and information is hard
to obtain and never seem to know what
is available to us.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

1. The role and contribution of carers in society

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

To provide care and support for my
son who has a chronic illnesses
and disabilities which has to be
cared for 24 hours a day.

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 ...

As a carer I face the problem of all
ways filling fatigued. my son gets
4 hours of respite pre week and this is
my only break. if I get more respite for
him I have to pay and this is a big
financial problem.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

Respite that is beneficial to me. I also have Health problems. I need help with transport as we have many doctors visits and Hospitals. This is a major problem as this becomes very costly.

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 ...

Given them respite where they can get benefit from, by helping provide funding for a few days away so we can charge our energy, and be better able to cope.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

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.

Yours sincerely

ELIZABETH

Print your name

26/6/2008

Date

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a single mother caring for my 33yr old son who has chronic illnesses and disabilities. I also suffer from serious health problems and am on a disability pension.

My son's condition varies from day to day due to the multiple problems, which he has. His care is 24hrs a day, 7 days a week, because of his condition. As a carer I get the Carer's Allowance which, if you care for someone 20hrs a week or 24hrs a day, it is the same money, which works out at \$7 a day.

As a carer, I am not only his carer; I have multiple tasks to do:

1. Mother
2. Carer
3. Secretary
4. Taxi Service
5. Home Duties

Only having 4 hours of respite a week, does not leave much time for myself. For these 4 hours of respite, we have to pay some of the cost. Being on a Disability Pension and paying rent it is impossible to have any other respite as this costs more money.

When I go to see the psychologist and it is suggested that I take a break, how can I afford to have a respite break, as we don't get holiday pay or superannuation?

I am sure that your job pays more than \$7 a day. How in the middle of the night, when we are so tired, our job is still ongoing. I am sure that your jobs are not 24hrs a day.

Elizabeth