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Sent: Friday, 4 July 2008 7:25 AM
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: Better Support For Carers

AOC 17/7/08

Submission No. 893
(Inq into better support for carers)

Bronwyn

I have been involved with a family member who has been a carer for the past 25 years. I do know that support has improved over the years but one of the greatest difficulties this particular carer has (and other carers I know have agreed) is that they are allocated a certain amount of respite each year. Theoretically the person being cared for agrees to the terms and conditions when interviewed and a placement organised but then cannot believe the carer considers them a big enough burden that the carer needs respite to survive. Also by the time the respite period comes around the carer is often overtired and unable to cope with packing up the person they are caring for and moving them into the respite placement. However, if this was able to be done by either a member of the department that interviews for qualifications for respite etc. or by someone employed by the location the person is going to while their carer has a break that would surely make it less stressful all round. The person being cared for picks that particular time often to be as difficult as they can be because they are considered in need of care (validated by evidence from doctors etc.) and it is almost as if their carer is being insulting to them. The other major problem is that the paperwork seems to be never ending e.g. two to four respite placements a year is fantastic and in most cases none of the information changes but for a carer overwhelmed by having to physically and emotionally care for someone as well as take all the responsibility of paperwork this also seems overwhelming to them. There would be certain cases where details change but in most cases I know the details do not change between each visit but often the carer gives up as they have no-one to help with completion of paperwork for the respite centre.

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