

Doc 17-7108

Submission No. 909
(Inq into better support for carers)

From:

Sent: Friday, 4 July 2008 12:48 PM

To: Committee, FCHY (REPS); Committee, FCHY (REPS); Committee, FCHY (REPS); Committee, FCHY (REPS); Committee, FCHY (REPS); Committee, FCHY (REPS); Committee, FCHY (REPS); Committee, FCHY (REPS); Committee, FCHY (REPS); Committee, FCHY (REPS)

Subject: CARERS

Secretary Committee on Family, Community, Housing & Youth

Dear Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to voice an opinion.

At the age of 70 my husband had a car accident with my car, which suddenly rendered him incapable of continuing with his managerial position. Overnight we had no cars, mine was wiped off, his went back to the firm. Fortunately he appeared unhurt, but from that day our lives changed as his memory deteriorated I guess forever. One day I was Ken's wife, the next the Dr referred to me as his carer. The psychological adjustment was tremendous.

I give you this scenario to help you evaluate and to consolidate my opinion in this inquiry.

From both being independent, the pension was now a must to keep finances afloat.

From independence to dependence in finance was difficult to accept. I had retired from education and was keeping an interest by teaching piano.

Now as a carer I experienced the full financial load. Like most, even professional wives, Ken cared for most of the finances and made most financial decisions. Ken's banks had to be closed down & from Oct 9th. 2007 I have been desperately trying to close his visa & since 2000 I have been trying to get the Glamorgan Council to allow me to drain a block into their water main which runs next to the block we own in Tasmania. In the meantime I pay added rates, cleaning fees etc.

No 1 **Help with financial difficulties** could relieve the tremendous strain suddenly thrust on carer individuals.

No 2 **Allow Carers & Pensioners more dignity in continuing to earn more**

cutting **Than the present amount without not only taxing them, but**

Back on their pension allowance. This thinking makes people poor.

higher thinking with This seems like something that is **paramount to** government decisions.

No3 **More flexibility with individual cases.** People could be helped to Continue visiting their own doctor by supplying a driver even if he is out of town.

had to give up (this has been of great cost & difficulty for me when my husband

Driving & I only drove around the city)

No4 When ACAT was sent in by my doctor it was followed by so many other people

Attorney versus
house to be
themselves, Liability
along the track,
is very
she could
someone died
she could
vulnerable
individual was
quickly.

No5
week,
Townsville.
more finance

I could go on for much longer but duty calls.

Thanking you again for this great opportunity of being part of change.
Yours faithfully,

And papers to fill in, then suggestions of Enduring Power of
Power of Attorney, Health Directive, New Will, Permission for our
Inspected in case work people, **not us**, entered and hurt
For these cleaners etc. I still find incredible. Seven (7) years
This week I was allotted a cleaner for 90 minutes a fortnight. This
Acceptable but the cleaner appeared to be more interested in what

Not do rather than what she was being paid to do no doubt from
Government extra allowance. I had been told I had to wait until

Before I could get regular help.

**My suggestion is: could this not be thrust
onto a carer all in one go, but spread out over a time he or**

**start to understand & digest it. The carer is already in a
changed position of responsibility & as caring as each**

It was completely overwhelming to accept all this so

Especially as it finished with your husband is now a **statistic.**

Homecare Dementia gave we carers a wonderful treat last

A back massage , foot massage and facial at a resort here in

Could they please be commended on it & if possible be given

To continue these fantastic stress relief sessions?

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