

29<sup>th</sup> May.

Committee Secretary  
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,  
Community, Housing and Youth

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.

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

One I would never have chosen but has happened for a reason. My disabled daughter teaches us what all of us should learn.

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I face the following problems ...

Continually fighting for respite, feelings of anxiety over the level of constant organizing for my disabled child, worry about her future and having to care for her for the rest of my life

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I need help with ...

More respite places, to have a bed available in hospital when surgeries are booked but then cancelled at the last minute, financial assistance as the costs of caring for her are so great and relentless.

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I think the Government can better help Carers by ...

Providing a secure future knowing that there will be somewhere safe she can live away from home in adulthood, continuing to listen to us, provide out of home respite, providing help individually to families to use funding how they need it most (eg I have 3 other children, one with ADHD and I need help with disabled child after school which we pay for. This almost cripples us financially and we are renting a home but we have to have that help for the family to stay together. Fund special schools well and fund local respite centres - build and staff more as the number of people with disabilities is increasing yet there are no more facilities. I do not want to keep my daughter here, in fact I desperately wish she would pass on, but someone has to care for her while she is here. IT comes down to funding and listening to carers. Walk one day in our shoes. Thank you for listening.

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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.