

ABC 28/7/08

Submission No. 1053
(Inq into better support for carers)

1st of July 2008

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and 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 am writing this submission on behalf of my mother in law, Zora and myself.

My father in law, who was terminally ill and was bedridden since Christmas passed away a week ago. The family was with him at the time he died at home, as this was his wish.

His main carer was his wife, my mother in law. It was her role to provide personal care, medication, feed him and comfort him till the end. As she is an older person too, with her own health issues, it was a major task, but she felt it is her role as a wife to be there for him.

My role was to support her with organising Doctor's appointment, driving to and from Hospital, provide language support (as her English is very basic) and towards the end, to organise palliative care, nappies, respite and spend endless hours facilitating her access to all those services that she has no knowledge of.

All this time I was thinking of all other carers from non English speaking background that have no support from their families, have no language skills and no knowledge of community services available to them.

And it took two of us to care for him.

And it doesn't stop there. Where from here... Carers deserve support not only during their caring role but also after. They need services in place to help them through the transition period and they need services that are culturally and linguistically responsive to their need.

I hope you will take this letter into consideration and will help you understand the importance of carers. During our life time, we will all become carers or cared for at some stage in our life.

Yours sincerely,

Dragana