

Rec 28/1/08

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

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...

My role as carer is a lonely, exhausting and heartbreaking one.

This is an opportunity for me to tell you what support I

need as a carer and how very difficult life is for families

to care for the sick since mental institutions were closed.

Had I lived in a different age my daughter would be

institutionalised and taken care of.  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 care for my mentally ill daughter because she has

no one else to care for her. I am fortunate to live in

the days of welfare payments as meagre as they are.

If people who earn up to \$150,000<sup>p.a.</sup> can receive a

Baby Bonus of \$5,000, then I think carers should receive

the same annually as most of us live on well below \$150,000 p.a!  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 ...

I now work two days per week which doesn't really

set me up for retirement. I will be 60 this year.

My daughter will be too much for me to handle in

a few more years. She has nowhere else to go to

live as there is nil accommodation for people with

her problems.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

This is not really relevant to Qn. 1. I don't have time to correct it.



3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

Accommodation for my daughter. She would still need my daily support but she has no hope of finding a place to live away from home. She would be too difficult to share a flat etc. with another person, so she would need a small place of her own. Rental properties are hard to find and far too expensive - and who would give a lease to someone on a Disability Pension if people working in good jobs can't find rentals?

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

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

- \* Providing superannuation or a decent pension for them to retire on.
  - \* Easier access to psychiatric hospitals for the mentally ill.
  - \* Providing generous respite for carers and those they care for, especially as the carer ages or can no longer manage
- More information is attached on a separate sheet
- \* As mentioned above - accommodation for those cared for, especially as the carer ages or becomes burnt-out, whichever comes first.

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

CLARE

Print your name

Date

23 June 2008