

Doc 28/7/08

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June 27, 2008

Clerk Assistant (Committees)  
Inquiry into Better Care for Our Carers  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family  
Community Housing and Youth  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

I make this submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family Community Housing and Youth Inquiry into Better Support for Carers.

1. I am a Carer for two people.  
My daughter Katie now aged 39 years, she has multiple disabilities and lives at home. My husband and myself have cared for Katie since she was born, now though my husband requires care, so the Carer is me. He was diagnosed with Dementia (Alzheimers) in 2001.
2. The principle requirement for Katie is accommodation in the next five years. We were unsuccessful in applying for funding when she was in her twenties, after nine years of effort we ceased applying for accommodation funding, and changed our retirement plans
3. **WHAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN DO TOGETHER WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS TO RELEASE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE BACKLOG OF REQUESTS ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING AND ALLOW CARERS SUCH AS MYSELF TO BE ABLE TO PLAN, KNOWING THAT FUNDING WILL BE AVAILABLE ON APPLICATION WITHIN A REASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME (SAY 12 MONTHS).**
4. Acknowledge that Carers are strong people, not victims.  
We may not have chosen to be Carers but we continue to do so, however at 68 years with my husband ill and aged 75 years I am weary, and we need to look for accommodation for Katie in the next five years. The current system in Western Australia sets Carers against Carers as the person able to submit the most tragic application will be successful. This is simply not appropriate.
5. While I appreciate the \$1000 Carer Payment Bonus, the same amount now for four years and the \$600 bonus Carer Allowance it is not the most appropriate way for financial support. An increase in the Centrelink Pension and/or regular quarterly bonuses of say \$500 per quarter initially.
6. My daughter has no income other than the Centrelink Payment and some interest from money we have saved for her. She never receives any bonus!! Katie is highly unlikely to ever work. She is not a "bludger" on welfare. Katie is a strong person who ought to receive a medal for the way she copes with life and with those around her. Once she is in care virtually all her Centrelink Payment will go into her daily care – Katie requires 24 hour care.

Sincerely,