

Dec 29/08

Sent: Thursday, 3 July 2008 2:47 PM
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: Carer submission

Inquiry into better support for Carers.

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.

Problems.

1. I am suffering from Prostate cancer. My needs as a Carer limit my choice of treatment because of the need to be available as much as possible.
2. Being a carer means that my wife makes considerable demands on my time and energy such as driving her to places not served by Public Transport and having to do many chores at home that she would otherwise have done.
3. The range of leisure activities we would like to take part in such as Bushwalking, Whale-watching , movies, etc is limited.
4. There is considerable emotional strain in worrying about her well-being when I am out following my hobbies and about her capacity to cope in the event of my health possibly deteriorating so I am no longer able to care.

Needs.

- 1 I can see a need for Counselling for both of us in the future if either of our conditions deteriorates.
- 2 There should be adequate peer support.
- 3 For many people, the strain of caring for a severely disabled partner may mean that Respite is very important for their wellbeing.
- 4 More Home help should be available. We use Home help on a fortnightly basis at present but that may well increase over time and incur more expense.
- 5 With the rising cost of living, especially petrol, in country areas involving long distances to services, more money is needed to offset these costs.

My wife is legally blind and likely to go completely blind in the not too distant future while I do not yet know the possible outcome of my future cancer treatment. We are both on the Aged Pension.

Thankyou 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

Andrew