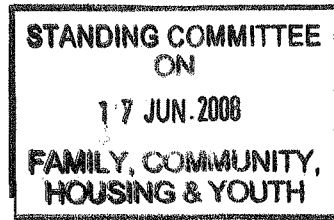


10th. June, 08

Laura



Submission No. 125
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 25/6/08

Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth.
P.O. 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 aged 65years, my disabled Daughter is 41years old. She requires 24hour 7day a week support. She has cerebral Pausy and takes Epileptic Fits. She is in a wheelchair, and needs constant care.

My caring role affects my life in respect that I have no life of my own, and that I am unable to attend outings, unable to visit Family, because my daughter is at the stage where she is unable to attend outings if she does not feel up to it.

She receives a few hours per week from Respite with a support worker, which allows me to go and do my shopping and attend to any of my financial needs which need to be attended to.

Please understand we are not asking for Pity, but could we please have some support to enable us to be able to do such simple things like, going to the Drs, or Dentists, or maybe because I love gardening, maybe a day trip out to a garden expo. Or even to be able to work in my own garden, with peace of mind that she is not in the house on her own and taking an epileptic fit.

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Could we please have funding for an Overnight and Weekend Respite Centre to be built in Mareeba, there are so many aged Carers in this town who are caring for loved ones with Disabilities, who actually require support themselves. Two Carers whom I know personally are in their 80's themselves, please help them, a 24hr Respite centre in this Town, would be so well supported, and would make so many Carer's lives so much easier. We have one aged care centre in this town, which has not accepted clients for 12month's or even longer now, as they say they need to do renovations, but work has not even commenced there, and they are saying when the new facility is reopened, it will have fewer beds than what it presently has. Where are our people with disabilities and aged going to go when there are no Carers at Home.

Please, please help, we really need your assistance. Could there also please be more funding for support throughout Disabilities Services, to enable more hours of personal support for time out for Carers.

Thank you for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committee's Inquiry. I look forward to reviewing the recommendations you make in order to improve support for carers, and enable them to have a small part of their life a little more normal, like we all expect and take for granted.

Yours sincerely,