

11-6-08

Committee Secretary,  
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers,  
House of Reps. Standing Committee on Family,  
Community, Housing & Youth,  
P.O. Box 602,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra. ACT. 2600.

Submission No. 145  
(Inq into better support for carers)  
A.O.C.  
25/6/08

Dear Secretary,

I wish to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing & Youth's Inquiry into Better Support for Carers:-

As the carer for my husband of 79 years of age, since he had a stroke 11 years ago, I am very dependent on the Carer's Allowance I receive. I am also 79, & my own health is deteriorating now.

He is disabled by the stroke & other illnesses, including osteoporosis, so that he can only walk very slowly, on a frame. I hope to keep him & myself out of a nursing home, one reason being that costs are too expensive. He is dependent on me to do everything - cooking, cleaning, shopping, laundry, etc., & I have found the social isolation one of the worst things. As I cannot leave him for long, I desperately need a holiday, & he does not want to go into respite.

I am grateful for the Carer's Allowance I receive, and for the bonus to come this year, & I humbly request that this should continue, & even increase as living costs are rising continually. Also, any additional funding for carers & the people they care for, to go on even a short holiday, would be most appreciated. Also, it would be a big help if the Car Registration for Seniors could be restored. Thank you for your attention, & I look forward to any recommendations to improve life for carers in Australia.