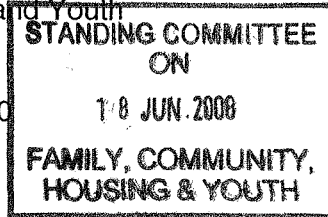


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

A.O.C. 27/6/08
Submission No. 235
(Inq 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.

I am submitting to the Inquiry because...

I have been a carer for over 10 years for my wife who suffers dissociative identity disorder, and it has been a hard road with not always a lot of support or understanding.

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 support my wife in my family, to maintain some form of 'normal' experiences for them and to hold onto positive hope that in the long term, with treatment and time, things can improve

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 am not always in a position to earn an adequate living. I can not always support my children as I would wish. Due to totally inadequate public mental health support I have taken out private health cover for my wife only which is a big drain on resources - but it helps keep her alive!

More information is attached on a separate sheet

- and she gets treatment when it is needed!

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

Assistance with private medical cover. (This helps keep her alive)
Occasional - funded respite.
Funding for occasional massage. (- which is one of the very few aspects of respite available to me.)
- Good access to broadband internet - for good communication.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

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

Offering assistance for massage funding.
Offering more assistance to help give children more opportunities or experiences.
Assistance with private health cover!
Vouchers for petrol!

More information is attached on a separate sheet

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

Alistair

Print your name

14/8/08

Date