



13th June 08

Submission No. 273
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 30/6/08

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

Dear Secretary,

- 1) the role of all carers should be recognized not just those that live in the family home. As is my case I looked after my brother in my own home until it became untenable. He has the same capabilities now as he had when he resided with me but after he left the family home my entitlements became less. Criteria for all government departments change Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Disability services Queensland , with my brothers details erased..
- 2) there is no recognition for carers who do not have the disabled person living with them. It is far harder to maintain the caring role if you do not reside at the same address
- 3) No support is given to the person with the disability from D.S.Q. criteria for Centre link payments change. E.g. while my brother lived with me I received Carers allowance . As soon as he left I was told that I would have to do 20hours of personal care a week to receive a small allowance(this was for showering dressing feeding etc) I was not told that it could be for communication doing paperwork looking for assistance. At a later date I was then given a paper that stated it could be for communication etc.. As my brother had a stroke and had great difficulty in communicating his needs , I was the person who did all of this . **If the government does not care then why should I** .In my case my brother had left home was an adult taking care of himself when he became disabled he was not my child or my mother or father.
- 4) Changes need to be put in place e.g. Superannuation ,as most people do not have the time or energy to work on top of looking after their disabled person .This needs to be of a reasonable amount not simply a percentage of the carers allowance
- 5) To re enter the workforce they need to be given the same chances as a person on the dole or single parent, by this I mean that the should be provided with help to be retrained given the chance to do a Tate course without their having to pay for their retraining .Carers are a valuable commodity and without them the cost to government would blow out. To address the issues raised the government needs to focus on the disability of the person and not be so

pedantic on the issues of where the person lives. There are many people who receive disability pensions and yet their carers are not acknowledged receive no assistance .Paperwork needs to be streamlined and simplified or there needs to be a service provided whereby paperwork can be done on their behalf. This service needs to be easily recognized and not be hidden ,this service needs to be free

- 6) In regards to the transition in or out of their caring role most people do not have that choice . In my case had I not taken on this role he would have remained in the hospital using up valuable resources. Due to the lack of help I will no longer be doing this service and once again the government will be picking up the costs. Nobody can make me look after another who is not my responsibility. I believe my brother will receive more assistance than he has received while I have helped. Of course this will be at a greater cost to the government.
- 7) All government departments need to recognize the rights of the carer instead of just focusing on the disabled person .If there is no assistance given to the carer or help when they are trying to find supports for the person who they are looking after this puts extreme pressure on the carer. It is wise to remember that one can only take so much of this pressure before they break .I am now at this , point and will be walking away. ,thereby leaving this in government hands. The distress I have had over the last 2 years has been immense and is causing problems to my health. Instead of having one person who needs help this could snowball.
- 8) I have an enduring power of attorney, for all matters this is not recognized by various government departments e.g. Centre link
- 9) Looking after my brother has cost money time and energy not to mention the extra pressure to my health, this could have all been avoided had I received the assistance required.

Thank you, for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committees Inquiry. I look forward to reviewing the recommendations you make in order to improve support for carers.

Yours sincerely

Diane



21 May 2008

[REDACTED]
MACKAY QLD 4740

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter regarding funding through the Family Support Program.

The family Support Program focuses on supporting the person with a disability as well as the family as a whole. There are two Family Support Programs. They are Family Support for Children and Family Support for Adults.

Adults with a disability who are eligible under the Queensland Disability Services Act 2006 must be:

- Aged between 18 and 65 years
- Living in the family home (this includes traditional arrangements for Indigenous families)
- Seeking support to remain living in the family home

Unfortunately, you do not meet the criteria for the Family Support Program as you are not living in the family home.

It is important that you notify DSQ of any changes to your circumstances that impact on the information you previously provided in the DSQ Application for Support by completing and Application Update form. This form is available online and at any Disability Services Queensland Service Centre.

I trust this information meets your requirements.

Yours sincerely

**Regional Executive Director
Mackay/Whitsunday Region**

110 Wood Street
Mackay Queensland 4740
PO Box 532
Mackay Queensland 4740
Telephone (07) 4944 6200
Facsimile (07) 4953 1430
Website www.disability.qld.gov.au
ABN 25 791 185 155