

Submission No. 449

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 2/7/00

Committee Secretary

Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing + Youth

P.O. Box 6021

House of Representatives

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

23rd June 00

Dear Secretary,

The following is my submission to your Commission inquiring into better support for Carers.

I was able to continue caring for my Mum, who was in her nineties + required full-time nursing care; and at the same time care for my husband in the early stages of dementia, because I had such wonderful support from the Aged Care Assessment Team in Geraldton.

I was able to access equipment like a shower chair (soon!) a walking frame, bedside commode, adjustable bed with bed-sides and air mattress, all free of charge, delivered + installed. There were rails put in + a ramp, + I had free access to incontinence supplies. Carers came when I needed chemotherapy appointments or even a holiday. And I received loads of encouragement + reassurance, from all the Home Help Team.

For myself personally, I was not a bit interested in awards or recognition, I knew my efforts were appreciated because of it received. Yet I understood at the time, that if I had

somewhere other than Geraldton, even in Capital Cities, I
 st have had these helps so freely available, and I would
 ow other carers coped without them; Geraldton was
 hining light in Caring Services, so perhaps it would help
 nquing to talk specifically to the providers of Aged Care
 ere in Geraldton, W.A.

I also had great support from Silver Chain. On one occa
 shen I suddenly found myself in a particularly stressful sit
 here were two Silver Chain nurses on my doorstep with
 inutes. It is help like this that enables us to keep on car
 et since then, I believe, "policy" has reduced Silver Chain
 enices have been handed over to nurses at Geraldton Reg
 'ospital. I wouldn't feel as free to call a hospital nurse
 nowing how short staffed & overstressed they are, if I
 a that situation today.

Perhaps I should point out that I no longer have my M
 are for, though I'm still a Carer for my husband, & I
 no outside help at this stage.

Thankyou for listening to my views, & thankyou for y
 efforts to improve life for Carers in Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Joy