

A.O.C 7/7/08

Submission No. 536

(Inq into better support for carers)

STANDING COMMITTEE
ON

30 JUN. 2008

FAMILY, COMMUNITY
HOUSING & YOUTH

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

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...

As a Carer of a mentally ill son I am sick of the bureaucracy
the Mental Health Services, Workers & Police have to work under.
The Privacy Act is also a stumbling block, the very people
it protects are left unprotected often when they are at
~~there~~ their most vulnerable.

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 care for my son & to be able to work with the
Clinicians, to help him in the Community & also
protect him & others when he is not well.

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 ...

Socially it is hard as I cannot plan to far ahead
because you never know what is going to happen.
You don't talk about your sons or daughters
so often in public or with friends. I have a
problem communicating effectively with him too
at times, but we cope.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

More information where to access alot of the services. The biggest problem I have is the Confidentiality too often people are afraid to divulge anything because they risk losing their job or breaching Privacy Act.

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 ...

Acknowledging the housing crisis, the stigma society still has on Mental Illness & ~~the~~ when there is a Dual / Diagnosis the Government should really have Drugs Alcohol Services & Mental Health Dept under the same Umbrella instead of working separately. Too many More information is attached on a separate sheet
ill people are falling through the cracks.

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

Signature

SANDRA

Print your name

25th June 2008

Date

My son has a poor insight to his illness, so consequently have never spoken to a Dr at his local clinic since he became ill, when most of his 8 hospital admissions over the past 9 years I have had to advise clinicians or Case Managers he needs to go to hospital.

1. Carers Contribution in Society

My role also is coping with a sick son as well as working as I am a single mother, I also help him financially, emotionally, and am one of the many who give selflessly continually to make his ~~life better~~. & their loved ones life better, quite often they don't see it that way.

2. Economically I struggle I am self employed, I am not on Carers payment or Carer Allowance as I was 3 points short according to Centrelink on the Medical Report from Psychiatrist at the Clinic but was told if I go to my own GP who has no knowledge of Mental Illness & fill it out with him I would more than likely receive it, or be reviewed for my payment or should I say Allowance. The Forms also pertain to a Mentally Impaired person not a mentally ill person there is a difference but society still confuses the two.

There also needs to be more places available after hospital admissions when they are still quite vulnerable or somewhere before hospital that is 'safe'.