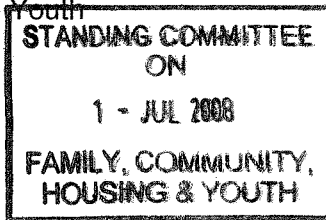


A.O.C. 8/7/08

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...

I have been caring for my son for 37 years. Our son is much loved and well cared for, but I don't think that we get the recognition or assistance we need.

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...

As a carer who looks after a loved one's welfare for such a long period, I feel that my contribution to society has been huge. I have saved the government many hundreds of thousands of dollars and thus benefited our society.

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 ...

37 years of caring for my son and helping to run our family business has been very difficult - at times almost impossible. Monash Council for instance does not provide assistance if you work. Carers are not permitted into a home without someone being there i.e. they are not allowed to use keys. Holiday care is only provided for school age children by Monash Council. While I agree that parents of children need help, older parents are left needy.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

While I am grateful and happy with the carers who help, we do not receive the level of assistance we need. For instance we now get carers who shower/bath Adam, but we still have to get up before 6 a.m. to get our son ready for carers. Assistance is lacking in many areas. It is hard work looking after a disabled person.

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 ...

We need better and more support. Many parents "cave in" under the stress and workload that a disabled person places upon them. Both working and social lives of carers is severely affected. It is clear that the impact on our lives is not appreciated. Meanwhile huge sums of money are being invested in the Foster Care program. At times an individual package is around \$100,000. Proper answers cannot be given on such a small form.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

while parents are left to struggle on ...

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

JUDITH

Print your name

27/6/08

Date