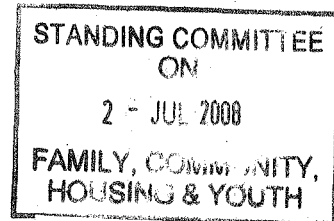


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Submission No. 728
(Inq into better support for carers)
DOC 14/7/08

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 am a fifty seven year old Grandmother
and along with my sixty one year old
husband, take care of two of our Grand
children who both have disabilities.

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...

Very important because I keep my
Grandchildren in their family. The
alternative would have been Foster
care at a greater cost to the
Government and the detriment of my
Grandchildren

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 left my employment to take full time
care of my Grandchildren and can
no longer contribute financially to
my own future and thus old age.
My plans and life are now on hold
until my grandchildren no longer
need me.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

Better and more consistent respite.
Better access to finances such as
the Carers Allowance and Payment.
All carers do the same work and should
not have other allowances means tested.

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 ...

Providing a more cohesive medical
system and a "one stop" system
that meets the needs of my Grandchild.
I currently deal with five different
organisations not including their school.

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

C.M.

Signature

Colleen Mary

Print your name

30-6-2008

Date

Contact Telephone Number