

Supplementary Submission No. 806.1

(Inq into better support for carers)

nic 2/8/08

From: Rosina
Sent: Thursday, 14 August 2008 6:15 PM
To:
Subject: Additional Statement - Public Hearing Adelaide 13 Aug 2008

Dear

My husband Daryl and I participated at the Public Hearing for Better Support for Carers Inquiry (Adelaide 13 Aug) and I would like to add this conclusion to my statement.

I would like the following statement to go on the record:

I spoke of the emotional and physical stress on carers and I believe that a caseworker should be assigned to every family. This caseworker should make regular home visits (every 3-6 months) depending of the individual needs of the family. They should be able to help the family obtain regular therapies and respite and listen to any concerns they have regarding obtaining services or lack of. Regular physiotherapy, masseurs and more respite should be provided for carers to give them some relief from the emotional and physical stress that they constantly deal with and give them a work/life balance that is looked upon so favourably by people in the work force. It should be the responsibility of the caseworker to organize any of these services on behalf of the carer. Most of us are too busy organizing our childrens therapies to have the time and energy to organize our own therapy and some of us are so wrapped up in our caring role and working that we don't even notice that our own health is deteriorating.

My husband Daryl mentioned details of the financial stress that consumes us. With the extreme costs of therapies needed for our children, there is little money left for daily necessities. My husband and I are approaching 50 yrs of age and not only do we need to provide for our own retirement but we are also constantly worried about putting enough money aside for our son's future. We need to make sure we put a roof over his head and he has enough money for living expenses and his own retirement when we are no longer around.

Financial Advisors and Accountants should be provided to carers, to help them manage their finances. Financial services should also be provided to our children, when they become adults, to help them manage their money when we are no longer around.

Superannuation should be paid on the carer payment/allowance.

We will never truly experience the freedom of retirement as other parents do. As parent/carers, we will never retire. Our son's future depends on us.

Thank you for your attention

Rosina

From: Rosina
Sent: Friday, 15 August 2008 10:54 AM
To:
Subject: Re: Additional Statement - Public Hearing Adelaide 13 Aug 2008

Dear .

There is so much more that we all wanted to say and as I lie awake at night listening to my son struggling to fall asleep I am still thinking of other things that I/we could have/should have said.

I do, however, have to express my extreme disappointment at hearing the announcement in Wednesday evening's news (the same evening of our Public Hearing) that the SA State Government has closed a deal to sell a large portion of the Glenside Hospital site. This leaves me with little confidence in the State Government's commitment to providing enough housing for our childrens' future. This site was originally established for mental health housing and would have been ideal for cluster homes as was discussed during our hearing. I feel that this decision has made a mockery of our discussion.

Let's hope that by working together we can achieve a more favourable outcome for all.

The above statement can also be added to the record if it's not too late.

Once again, thank you for listening.