

**From:** Anne  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 July 2008 9:36 AM  
**To:** Committee, FCHY (REPS)  
**Subject:** Carers Submission

ACC 17/7/08

**Submission No. 889**  
(Inq into better support for carers)

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 full time Carer, I believe that you as Govt tend to forget how we actually live on a pension. We are doing it so tough at the moment and without support from family & friends, we would not be able to meet our obligations, ie: rent, power, gas & telephone.

**1. The role and contribution of carers in society**

As a carer, I feel that my role is...

To give my husband who has had Parkinsons for the past 10 yrs the best support and care that he deserves. We both worked full-time until this disease took away his ability.

**2. The barriers to social and economic participation for carers**

As a carer, I face the following problems ...

I'm not looking forward to the time when my husband goes into respite care. I have learnt from our support group that the Govt dosen't play fair. I believe that some places allocate you 4 days respite, when actually it is only 2. Their pension is taken for their care, how then does the remaining partner pay rent, etc. I'm scared of this situation.

**3. The practical measures required to better support carers**

As a carer, I need help with ...

Finances, medication, getting a better medical situation. As regional Victorians we have to travel over an hour to get to a specialist. We have 2 choices, Albury or Melb and half the time our costs are higher than what Medicare pay – dosen't make sense to me...

**4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices**

I think the Government can better help carers by ...

Actually understanding how hard it is out here without any money! I know it sounds like a broken record, but we are all hurting. We need more regional assistance for Carer's. It's too far to go to events that are in Melb only. More places Carer's can go for respite & backup. We are lucky in our city, but many others don't have the resources we have.

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

*Anne* 1

*Signature*

*Anne*

*Print your name*

*4/7/08*

*Date*

*Postal Address*

*Contact Telephone Number*