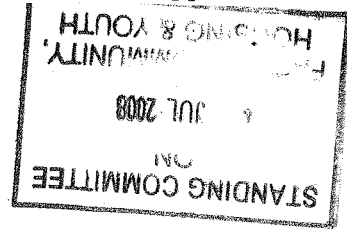


For 18/7/08

Submission No. 943

(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...

CARING FOR MY PARENTS (87 & 88) HAS MADE ME
VERY AWARE OF THE DISCREPANCIES & ANOMALIES
IN THE SYSTEMS RELATING TO CARERS - BE THEY
CARING FOR CHILDREN, SPOUSES, PARENTS OR FRIENDS

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 OFFER

LOVE & SUPPORT FOR MY PARENTS TO STAY IN THEIR
OWN HOME FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE - PREFERABLY
TO DIE HERE, IN PEACE & TRANQUILITY SURROUNDED BY
FAMILY - NOT A NOISY, RIGID HOSPITAL SYSTEM, ISOLATED &
ALONE, LOST & SCARED.

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 ...

LACK OF FUNDED RESPIRE TO GIVE MY RATHER TIME
OUT FROM HERE & WATCHING THE WOMAN HE LOVES
SO MUCH DETERIORATE. DVA (WHOM PROVIDE FOR MY DAD)
WILL NOT FUND A CARER TO COME & CARE FOR MUM SO I
COULD TAKE DAD OUT FISHING OR JUST OUT - SO HE'S A
PRISONER HERE, TOO.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

2 CONT

MUM'S "EACH" PACKAGE ALLOWS
4 HOURS PER WEEK FOR A CARER
TO COME & CARE FOR HER - MY
RESPIRE TIME!!!

DURING THIS 4 HOURS - MY FATHER
HAS DR'S APPOINTMENTS, INSECTIONS
BANKING, BILL PAYING, CHEMIST &
I DO THE WEEKLY SHOPPING, FITTING
IN A LIBRARY VISIT AS THE MOBILE
LIBRARY VAN HAS BEEN CANCELLED.
IF WE RUN OUT OF MILK I HAVE
TO RING & ASK A NEIGHBOUR TO
GO & GET SOME. UNTIL THIS JUNE
I HAVE NOT HAD ANY SOCIAL
CONTACT SINCE MAR '07. OUR
CASE WORKER HAS BEEN ABLE TO
ORGANIZE 3½ HRS PER MONTH FOR
THE NEXT 4 MONTHS, SO I CAN GO TO
A MEETING IN THE NEAREST TOWN.

3/cont.

TO PUT DAD INTO A HOSTEL IS NOT WHAT WE NEED, 6 HOURS PER FORTNIGHT TO TAKE HIM OUT, WITH SOMEONE TO CARE FOR MUM, WOULD BE GREAT. CARERS OF DEPENDANT CHILDREN (CEREBRAL PALSY^{etc}) HAVE THE SAME ISSUE, THE CHILD CAN BE PUT IN CARE FOR 196 HOURS & SEPERATED FROM FAMILY SUPPORT, WHEN CARERS HAVE 6 HOURS A COUPLE OF TIMES PER MONTH TO JUST GO & HAVE LUNCH OR UNWANTED WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY (EVEN HUSBANDS) WOULD BE GREAT.

4/ CONT

OPTIONS WHICH ARE MORE SUITABLE TO THEIR PARTICULAR SITUATION.

A BOOKLET TYPE PUBLICATION WOULD COVER THIS, ALSO EXPLAINING WHAT THE ACRONYMS STAND FOR, RELATING TO THE PACKAGES AVAILABLE.

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

MORE FLEXIBLE CARE ARRANGEMENTS, WHERE
RESPIRE CAN BE ACCESSED TO BE USED FOR TOTALLY
UNRELATED PURSUITS - NOT NECESSARY TO RUNNING
THIS HOUSEHOLD. I.E. DVA RESPIRE SHOULD BE MORE
ADAPTABLE, ADJUSTABLE & USABLE - 196 HOURS PER YEAR

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 ...

PUTTING IN THE CARERS HELP LINE. TRAINING
MORE STAFF. PAYING BETTER WAGES TO RESPIRE
STAFF & HOME CARING STAFF. MAKE INFORMATION
AVAILABLE ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES & CHOICES ACCESSABLE
TO ASSIST CARERS & POTENTIAL CARERS TO SELECT

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



Signature

HEATHER LETAM

Print your name

1/7/08