

Acc 18/7/08

**Submission No. 949**

(Inq into better support for carers)

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**From:** Gaylene  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 July 2008 8:24 PM  
**To:** Committee, FCHY (REPS)  
**Subject:** Better Support for Carers

Dear Committee Secretary,

My husband and I currently look after our twelve year old son who has severe Cerebral Palsy. The role of a carer is a truly significant one. We are not just parents we are carers. Without the care that we provide our son would have no life. We are there to feed, change, re-position, shower and tend to all of his basic needs. Our son is twelve years old but has the needs of a new born child. This is a hard life but we don't complain about the work, all we ask is for a little more support financially. We fight everyday to keep our son healthy, so why do we need to fight the government as well. Can't you understand that we are tired.

Carers need the one off bonus of \$1000.00, plus \$600.00 to be guaranteed in the budget each year instead of wondering if it will happen or not. More money also needs to go into helping sibling groups operate. The carers pension needs to be increased to help cover all the incidentals that we need to buy on a weekly basis. This is a full time job and it is about time that it was paid like one.

Yours Sincerely

Gaylene

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