

Submission No. 969

(Inq into better support for carers)

Inquiry into better support for carers
Standing Committee on Family, Community,
Housing & Youth
PO Box 6021

1st July, 2008.

House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

I wish to make a submission to the Committee.

My role as a carer is looking after my 38 year old daughter Sharon who has a mental disability and is unable to look after her self, with out support, which I have been doing all her life.

Sharon has many capabilities but is unable to read write or understand money.

I'm now 67 years, my husband Jim 71 years, I'm concerned as to where Sharon will live for the rest of her life, as we live on a Rural Property there are not many places offering that might suit Sharon, she loves to walk her dog or just stroll by her self.

The practical measures that would better support her in independant living would be in a Rural Lodge or Hostel that could be designed like Retirement Villers where they have their own small House but linked to others with disabilities.

Careers running & living on the same block with communal kitchen & cleaning room. Daily helpers to oversee laundry, house cleaning, etc could be incorporated with Respite & HAAC services as most country towns have them already functioning.

Many aged care facilities are designed similar to this so why can't young adults with disabilities have the same opportunities in the country, so they can be near their families & friends.

Sharon is now at a stage in her life where she needs to live as independently as her disability will allow.

Yours sincerely

Sue & Jim