

Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth

Submission No. 65
ST/ (Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 16/6/08

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...

I am a 52 year old carer of my 20 year old autistic/ intellectually disabled son. I also have another son in year 12 and am the administrator for my mother in laws ^(SA) financial affairs (she is in care and take my mother (aged 87) shopping + to doctors appointments

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...

undervalued and underpaid. I cannot work as my son needs constant supervision, so when he is at his day centre that is when I do house work, washing, shopping etc. Up until he was aged 16 I was not eligible for even a part pension as he was not "medically" disabled, even though he was fully dependant on me.

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 ...

Respite is few and far between and too short a time. It is not mostly when it suits me but when it suits the service provider. We usually need to know about 4 months in advance if there is a wedding or party in order to get overnight facility based respite otherwise 4 hours is all we can get from local council on shorter notice.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

Facility based respite. Governments prefer in home respite as it is cheaper to provide and is appropriate for some, but not for us. My son needs to be out + about or he gets bored and becomes difficult. Also I would like to walk around my own house without unlocking doors and have my other sons friends over, live a normal life at times

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 ...

understanding that not all disabled people are physically impaired, and many will live long lives. Also by grouping disability services with aged care services because the needs are similar on a government level is inappropriate as in reality their ^{needs} ~~disabilities~~ are poles apart

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

Joy
Print your name

9/6/08
Date