

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 + Youth's Inquiry to Better Support for Carers.

I have a brain injured son who needs 24hr support he was living with me + my husband for 13 yrs before funding came available for supported accommodation but he was assessed 3 times + 3 times was told he needed 24hr care, when the funding came through it was not 24hr care so my son came to me all day 7 days plus Sunday evenings till 7AM Monday.

Also I have him approx 5 hrs during the week (52 ^{weeks} per yr) In top of this I have my foster mother living with me who I care for + receive the allowance for.

24/7. My husband is on a disability pension through sickness and in the past six ^{months} my health is deteriorating. I am 61 yrs old.

I feel the carers need more support in many ways. Financial help is a priority, in our home income is only a carers pension + disability pension. We don't own a home and pay rent, after paying bills, food, petrol there is not much money left even if we were able to go out.

I feel if my son had been given 24hr care as he is only 35 + uses a wheelchair permanently that would take a lot of money + depression ^{weight} off our shoulders. After all any person can only cope with the stress for so long.

I think the government should be taking in personal situations, it seems easier for them to fund for more respite centres, but how long can people attend these places in a year they care so many people with disabilities + their carers. Maybe more money ^{should} stay in our own country helping our own population instead of sending it overseas.

(2)

Please excuse my writing & mistakes as I am
feeling low to-day having to air my frustration

I hope you will take my comments seriously
before carers are costing the government
money to take care of them

As Carers we save the government money
keeping elderly people, disabled people etc
out of the hospital systems.

I feel personally, no one understand how each
individual feels, unless you are in the same
situation and after all no-one can plan
when it can come along unexpected.

Thanking you.

Jillian