

~~CONFIDENTIAL PLEASE~~

Submission No. 1177  
(Inq into better support for carers)

AD 4/18/08

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...

I am a carer of an adult child with a chronic mental illness.

**It concerns me that these submissions are liable to be made public with our names included. This to me indicates great insensitivity on the government's part toward carers and their dependants, and will stop many people from making submissions.**

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...

continually undervalued by the federal government, who whenever they want to save money, threaten my son's health by announcing a review of carer's pensions (or his disability pension) sending him into panic and deteriorating mental state. This means I am continually anxious about whether he will have the security of my ongoing support.

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 ...

1/ Isolation 2/Lack of community and government understanding of the ongoing pressures of caring 3/Not able to get paid work so I know our financial situation is unlikely to improve 4/Privacy issues surrounding mental illness stopping me from speaking up – even submissions like this jeopardise my own and my son's right to privacy regarding his illness.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

**3. The practical measures required to better support carers**

As a carer, I need help with ...

meaningful activities for my son to pursue. More opportunities for social interaction for him  
organised by government funded organisations. It helps him and gives me a short break.

*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 ...

making the carer's bonus an ongoing reliable annual payment. It means that once a year,  
the bills can all be cleared and financial pressures can be relieved if it is known that we just  
need to hang on for the payment. It also means we have some money to have a short  
holiday once a year, for example, or to spend a few dollars on an interesting hobby to help  
make all the time spent at home more interesting and valuable.

*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*

*(Please ring me if you want to confirm who I am)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print your name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Contact Telephone Number*