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Submission No. 1206
(Inq into better support for carers)

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

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.

As a group of carers we are in the process of **setting up a house** for our children. There are five families with prospective tenants, there are another three on a waiting list (at this stage). All the families have applied unsuccessfully for DSQ funding.

The **problem we are facing** is supplying ongoing support, family and friends cannot fill a roster covering the 24/7 time frame necessary for the tenants safety. Our children are on the borderline being capable enough to perform daily tasks for themselves but not capable enough to be reliable. Safety is also an issue. All are receiving the Disability Pension but this does not cover their daily expenses let alone the wages for one full time carer between them.

The caring role we play affects our lifes by disrupting the family unit. Some of us are on the borderline of keeping the family unit together and have lost friends because of their situation. Some family members are missing out on the care they are entitled to receiving, and tension grows within the immediate as well as extended families.

Our solution to the problem would be to making more packages available so more disabled people are catered for within the community as well as having more accommodation facilities available to this sector of the community.

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

Caralyn Straw
On behalf of our group of carers.