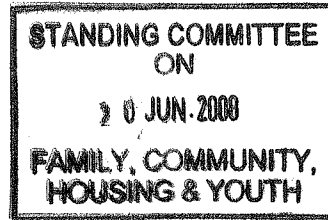


A.O.C. 30/6/08

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA



[Insert date here]
14.06.08

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.

As a Carer, I feel that my role is ... ALL INCLUSIVE CARE - eg. PERSONAL CARE / EMOTIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT (VERY IMPORTANT) FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE / GIVING MY TIME OF 3, 6 TO 8 HOURS OR MORE PER DAY IF REQUIRED - ALSO TELEPHONE SUPPORT WHEN I CANT BE THERE.

I face the following problems ... LIKE MOST CARERS FATIGUE, STRESS AND ONES OWN HEALTH PROBLEMS - TAKING BUSES AND TAXIS IS VERY TIME CONSUMING, EXPENSIVE AND TIRING. I USE THESE FOR MY CARING ROLE ... I AM UNABLE TO IMPROVE MY PRESENT OR FUTURE FINANCIAL PROSPECTS AS A CARER ... WHEN MY CARING ROLE CEASES, I WILL REVERT BACK TO A PAYMENT EQUIVELANT TO THE 'DOLE'. THE RENT ASSISTANCE PAYMENT HAS NOT INCREASED FOR A LONG TIME AND MY RENT HAS ALMOST DOUBLED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS (PRIVATE RENTAL) (ITS NOW MORE THAN 50% OF MY INCOME)

I need help with ... SOME INCREASE WITH RENT ASSISTANCE AS MY RENT IS INCREASING 6 MONTHLY - A \$15 TAXI VOUCHER TO COVER 50% OF THE COST OF THE FARE TO TRANSPORT MY MOTHERS SUPPLIES TO HER - CONDITIONS. eg. 1 TRIP - 1 CARER - 1 DESTINATION ONLY - PLEASE CONTINUE ANNUAL CARERS BONUS AS IT IS A GREAT HELP WITH MY DENTAL CARE / ORTHOTICS AND OTHER MEDICAL NECESSITIES - THE BONUS IS ALSO ALMOST EQUIVELANT TO WHAT ONE COULD EARN ON A CENTRELINK PAYMENT, IF ONE WAS NOT A CARER ...

I think the Government can better help Carers by ... CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THEM AFTER THEIR CARING ROLE CEASES DUE TO A DEATH OF THE PERSON BEING CARED FOR, ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE OVER 55 AND UNABLE TO WORK FULL OR PRIME, THE EX-CARER SHOULD AT LEAST BE PAID THE EQUIVELANT OF A CARER PAYMENT UNTIL THEY REACH THE AGE PENSION AGE. MY FIRST CARING ROLE CEASED THROUGH THE DEATH OF MY PARTNER, TWO MONTHS LATER I WAS CARING FOR BOTH MY PARENTS, 3 MONTHS AFTER, MY FATHER DIED, NOW I CARE FOR MY 80 YR OLD MOTHER / I ALSO HAVE UNOFFICIALLY BEEN CARING FOR MY 28 YR OLD DAUGHTER WHO HAS HAD LONG TERM MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS. CARERS NEED ONGOING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ESPECIALLY AFTER A DEATH - VERY MUCH NEEDED.

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

[Sign your name here]

[Type or clearly print your name here]

Inquiry into Better Support for Carers

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth