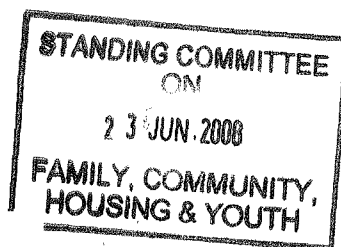


19th June 2008
BRIAN



Submission No. 307
(Inq into better support for carers)
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

Dear Secretary

I wish to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee On Family, Community, Housing Youth's inquiry into Better Support for Carers.

Financially and emotionally struggling because of the unexpected change in lifestyle, following the sudden disability suffered by my wife - total paraplegia. To obtain the necessary medical attention, it was required to close our business and purchase a house in a larger town. The initial costs of making that change have been outreaching. The financial ones can be calculated, but the others more depressing. Being on call 24/7, social and sporting outlets are no more. Obviously the future for both of us is paramount in our thinking.

The Carers allowance is only a fraction of the real costs involved, so a substantial increase is necessary. The added expenses incurred do not seem to be taken into account, such as transport, chemist bills, and the necessary special clothing requirements, certainly not covered by the pension.

The Aged Pension takes over from the Disability Pension upon reaching retirement age. The demands of a person with a disability usually out weighs the average needs of an aged pension. I believe some adjustment should be made to compensate for this.

Respite care facilities for both sides – I believe to be the most urgent requirement for the long term betterment of both.

The monies spent by Government Departments appear to be used on Academics (folder holders) instead of people on the ground.

Thanking you, and trust you may take my submissions on board.

Yours faithfully

BRIAN