

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

STAI	Submission No. 426 (Inq into better support for carers) A.O.C. 2/7/08
FAM	HOUSING & YOUTH

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...

Personally I feel the pressure of del down care As need ones ability is sometimes overwhelming. Govts. must take Carers more seriously. We appreciate the current help in subsidies etc but a more serious acceptance of the work of Carers to the Community as a whole.

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...

I am a full time Carer For my wife who Has Severe Parkinsons. I am giving my WIFE CARING/LOVING SUPPORT IN OUR HOME FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. WE ^{FAMILY} ENDEAVOUR TO KEEP US TOGETHER AS A FAMILY and out of HOSTEL/HOSPITAL CARE for as long as possible. Thus Assisting to keep pressure off the institutions. For the Aged

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 ...

Social OUTINGS ARE INFREQUENT AS MY WIFE ALSO HAS Continence problems which makes moving away From Home a real drag For all concerned. Fuel prices are a deterrent to go anywhere. We are encouraged (and agree) its important to still "get out" but the above makes it very discouraging.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

IT STILL AMAZES US The number of Businesses that dont cater For Disabled. Both in entries & toilets. e.g. Steps, no ramps, no rails in toilets.

cont. 1) more rules in place ... caring places must have ...
to premises and toilets etc?

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

More frequent, perhaps Quarterly, meeting for Carers in Country Centres. The cost of Fuel/Accommodation etc. makes it very difficult for Rural people to attend meetings in State Capitals. I think it's very important (almost mandatory) that Carers have the opportunity to meet/talk with fellow Carers. This would allow people to re-assure one another.

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 ...

1. Cover the cost of Fuel/Accommodation to Attend Regular Meetings.
2. EXTEND Govt assistance (currently assists with Continence products) but really only covers 6 months of each year (in our case)
3. CARERS Payment @ \$100 per fortnight. e.g. \$7 per day does not cover much, in fact it tends to mentally degrade the worth of Carers. To keep patients at home, and not in Constitutional Care must save the Govt. huge outlays!

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

Print your name

Robin

Date

18-6-08