

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

Submission No. 441
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.E. 2/7/08

30 JUN 2008

FAMILY, COMMUNITY,
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...

I was a carer for my husband for a long time before he was admitted to Englebert Lodge in Echuca & then 1 year later he fell out of bed - broke his hip. After several weeks in Bendigo Hospital he was transferred back to Echuca for 2 1/2 ~~years~~ years before passing away. I had to stay in Bendigo during a week while he was in Bendigo, which got quite expensive.

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 felt that I was really alone, on my own, and if I did go out to shopping or church when he was home, I'd rush into the house, knocking in all the rooms and outside to see where he was, as he had been a carpenter & wanted to work in his shed, but as he got older & feeble he was just sit, & no company at all.

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 ...

As a carer I found it hard to get my husband to see the Dr etc and he was very fussy with meals. He had always had a small appetite and it was always worrying as to what he would eat.

I found while he was in hospital that he didn't eat properly and definitely while in care, as the staff were so busy they couldn't feed all the patients & he died a very thin man.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

As a carer I needed help with the house, which thankfully is helped by the State

You definitely rely on the carers who come to help at times for social talks, even if its very small time

As an ex carer, & elderly I believe that we be able to see the helpers more often, but they are run of their feet as there is not enough staff.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

I am one of the ex carers who is not literate, with computers + everyone now thinks you can do everything on one !!

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

I think the Government can better help carers by ...

Supplying much more funding as the carers are getting older now themselves, & caring for housebound husbands is very hard work

The carers can get so tired with extra washing, coping with what the husband used to do, wondering what sort of meals to cook.

Thought not sound much, but many carers can tell you that they are bone tired at the end of each day

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

Jessie

Print your name

25/6/08
Date