

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. 461

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 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 am a carer of long standing, over 20 yrs, while I was working I could provide support to my son now I am retired it is financially draining as the weekly / fortnightly visit to Melb. to check on him are costly the provision of clothes and phone calls are also a drain.

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...

To provide Psycho-social support to my son who has a severe mental illness. He lives alone and my counselling work with him is daily phone calls, to remind him of his medication, his appointments, and support to manage his disability pension to pay for methadone food fares, + generally keep his mood up so he will not relapse to drug use again.

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 ...

I am disadvantaged because the intensive daily time of Psycho-social support I provide to my son who has a dual diagnosis Schizophrenia & Drugs. does not add up to 20 hrs so I am ineligible for carer payments. When my son does not have this daily support he has a relapse. It is devastating for him, his family & a great cost to the Health System.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

money, so I can be sure my son has food
is attending his appointments & has his
medication.

It is discriminatory that the psycho social
support by phone and visits to him do not add
up to 20 hrs per week. 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 ...

Paying all or a percentage of Carer payments
allowance as the cost of Government care
is huge. If all carers put their loved ones
into care as once was the situation the costs
would soar. Carers save the Government a huge amount
of money

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

CATHERINE

Date

25. 6. 08.