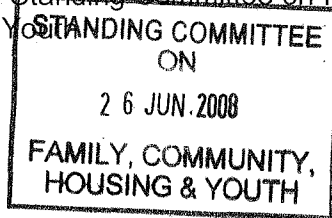


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Submission No. 514

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C 7/7/08

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.

I am submitting to the Inquiry because...

I feel that carers need to be listened to.

As carers we care for the person because we love them ,it is time consuming and involves time and energy and when we need support, funding and aids and equipment it all take time and more energy that we do not have. Also there is also a waiting period. What you do not realize is that many of us ask only when the need is great and then we find there is a waiting list of at least six months or longer

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...

It seems my role is seen as saving the government money!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

With more support and recognition most of us would not feel like this.

Time caring for the disabled member takes time from other family members and myself.

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 unable to work full time as the day centre's hours are far to short.900am pickup and 4.00pm drop off.

The funding for futures is less than when they were at special school. Our young adults are bigger there disabilities are increasing and **your funding is less.**

Day centre's are under funded , under resourced ie not enough staff, not enough specialized service providers (physio and O.T.) not enough funding for longer hours to have decent programs.

I am getting older and my body is wearing out and having to continually fight for packages and services is mentally and physically draining.

The funding **never covers the whole cost of aids, equipment. and renovations and their pension cannot cover the rest.**

Carer allowance should be scaled to disability.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

Personal care, respite.

\$490 for 12 months not enough for incontinence aids. \$154.00 minimum spent each month on incontinence ,which adds up \$**1848** for 12 months quite a shortfall as you can see.

More assistance to help with a wheelchair accessible car to make it easier for our disabled person to access activities in the community

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 ...

Respite houses that are not full of relinquished individuals.

The knowledge that there will be residential places for our loved ones when the time comes

that we are unable to care for them at home. NOT A RESPITE BED THAT WILL CAUSE THEM TO BE MOVED FROM ONE HOUSE TO ANOTHER.

It is very stressfull living with the thought where will my loved one be when I am unable to care for them.

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

Susan

Date

23/6/08