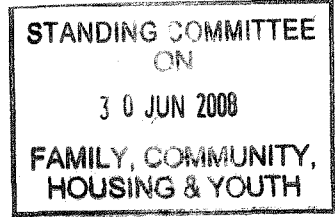


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



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...

carers' views need to be heard as we are the ones on the forefront and know what is needed. To keep people in their homes, services, aides need to be accessible to the carers.

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...

extremely vital to society by keeping my child at home. Bed numbers are far too low so by keeping people in their homes takes the pressure off the govt of increased numbers.

I also feel my role is devalued by agencies making situations difficult.

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 ...

Centrelink make it very difficult just to find out entitlements eg. Can't make an appt - need to go into office + could wait for hours to see some-one. Get sent many forms with no assistance to fill them in.

Travel assistance forms also difficult. With the concern of a disabled child, we don't need extra hassles!

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

People being available at Centrefink to explain options -
being able to make an app't.

Agencies to promote they take companion card instead of
making that extra phone call to enquire.

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 ...

Acknowledging what a great job they do.

Make access to agencies easy + the process smooth.

* CREATE MORE RESPITE / PERMANENT BEDS *

Train staff for these facilities appropriately + regular
appraisals to ensure they are giving high standard
care.

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

LOUISE

Print your name

12-6-08

Date