

The Secretary

24.06.08

Inquiry into better Support for Carers.

Submission No. 730

(Inq into better support for carers)

Dear Sir / Madam

A.O.C. 14/7/08

I have been a Carer since 1994, little assistance was given at that time as I believed in returning victims to the Community. That belief is continuing.

I work for a below the poverty line wage and care as well. Separation was the Social Security criteria - who needs

trauma added to trauma to obtain a disability pension? The Carer Allowance

since 2004 - about \$49 per week hardly reflects a "level playing field" as I save

Govt \$60,000+ p.a. I pay tax and have no health card, 24/7 standby is the order of the day, who would do it?

The necessity for more Carers is becoming blatantly apparent - what incentives are there?

Carers are Govt unpaid workers not pensioners, who deserve the workplace rights of any other worker in Australia.

My life was destroyed totally - sadly

I'd be writing a book to describe it.

My recommendations are:

- 1) A liveable wage for Carers with a superannuation component.
- 2) Health care cards.
- 3) Accessible respite care
- 4) In home care - at least one day per week to give Carers 24 hours "off duty".

- 5) Less means testing, a person doing a job deserves a wage not scrutiny.
- 6) Annual visits ad hoc by a Government Agency to ensure appropriate care for all involved.

I have survived, working and caring on a daily basis since 1994. Holidays have been minimal to the extreme.

I am a person - not a conjoined twin. But who is interested in Carers other than as an economy?

My 'ex' is a great success thanks to the loyalty, dedication support, expertise and practicality of his family. A QND Health DVD is available as evidence. Plus he was a 'case study' at QND Uni where in a competitive scenario three teams of medical and health ancillary students gave plans of approach. Very successful.

I used instinct, practicality intelligence and determination in a totally alien scenario - I was a teacher, not a medic.

"Life Support" is a medical mechanic's scene, "Living Support" involves far more sentiments, emotions, sacrifices, adaptability and long term dedication. These facets of caring are no doubt considered under the glorified term "Aussie battler".

Why should so many Carers have to be poverty case battlers when they save

Government billions of dollars?
Consider it - or would you personally?

I urge you to ease the exhausting dedication
of so many Carers who give so much;
it is within your power.

Yours Faithfully

Mrs. Ann