

Submission No. 829
(Inq into better support for carers)

REC 16/7/08

Mrs. W.

29th June, 2008

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE - Inquiry into better support for carers.

I am the mother of a 32year old severely disabled daughter,

To a lot of carers an increase of the carers pension would be helpful. A normal family nowadays rely on two incomes to survive on, but a carer relies on their pension which is means tested according to their partners income which means that they would never be as well off as two parents working.

More group homes and respite care centres would also be beneficial as there is a shortage. Emergency respite over weekends is out of the question as no-one works over the weekends. Community nurses also don't work over weekends they finish work on Friday. If an emergency should arise what do we do?

Carers have to work weekends as well as through the week and if we need a break who do we call? Cannot go away as there is no-one working the weekend so where do we go for a rest?

As a carer I also feel that we shouldn't have to wait on a waiting list to be operated on, as we cannot afford to be in a health cover system, and our health is important to us as to be able to continue the quality of care given to the people we care for. All doctors should be bulk billing us so that we don't have to pay the gap. More information in doctors surgeries would also be helpful as to what services are available, eg homecare, meals on wheels, PADP, CAAS funding etc., as a lot of the younger families don't even know they exist. I only found out when I broke my leg about 15 years ago.

Everything comes at a price, even respite care. I know that the person we care for should pay for the respite care but they also have their needs to pay for especially if they are disabled and living at home. There is a range of items like nappies, enemas and medications etc., which are needed plus

all their living expenses like clothing food etc., so there isn't much of their money left either.

If I was working I would probably be able to afford all these things but with what I receive for a pension it's impossible.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope that something will be done to help ALL CARERS.

Thanking you,
Willie

