

Submission No. 49

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 16/6/08

7th June 2008

Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
Standing Committee on Family , Community ,
Housing and Youth

Dear Secretary

I wish to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family Community Housing , Youth's Inquiry into Better Support for Carers .

My roll as a carer is to give my Wife [REDACTED] the best quality of life that I possible can .
.She has Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy , first diagnosed at the age of 17 . She is now 60. For the last 22 years has been on the Disability Pension. The last 16 years has been confined to a Wheel Chair.

I contribute to society by keeping my wife from going into a nursing home. She has been aged care accessed for the last 10 years being eligible to receive high level care. Since 1986 I have been her full time carer. I think I have saved the Government a considerable amount of money in that time.

I think this should be recognised by some form of extra assistance , such as Rebates for travel expenses – fuel vouches – etc. I find it difficult financially. Wheel Chair Travel is almost impossible using Public Transport for us. Car Conversions should be made available though some form of Government Scheme , this would make it possible to take my wife out In her Electric Wheel Chair ,without the hassle of a difficult transfer and then having to load the chair manually. The criteria for the above scheme could be that it would only be available for High Care Disability Pensioners.

I find it difficult financially because of the rising costs of Food – Petrol – Car Service & Repairs – House Maintenance –etc. I have to cut back on so much to get through to the next Carers Payment . PLEASE HELP ME.