

Dorothy

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth
PO BOX 6012
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

4th July 2008

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 to Carers.

As a Carer, I feel that my role is not understood and is undervalued in both, a financial and practical sense. I care for a family member who suffers from several chronic illnesses, mental illness, dysphagia and WHO DOES NOT HAVE A VOICE.

I face the following problems:

- It is very stressful and time consuming to ascertain the support that may be available especially when there are multiple chronic conditions involved.
- It appears that everyone is stereotyped. Each individual / client should be assessed on their conditions and health needs.
- The right assistance is difficult to find in order to be able to have some restbite.
- As Carers save the Government a lot of money, the Carer's Payment at the very least should be increased in order to keep up with ever increasing costs.

I need help with obtaining suitable experienced support eg. Nurses/carers who have the necessary skills to understand the complex health issues of the family member I care for. Better outcomes for all concerned are the ultimate aim.

I think the Government can better help Carers by giving support when and where required and ensuring extra support is available when needed without extra cost and without all the RED TAPE.

- People suffering from chronic illness, disability and frailty deserve the very best of care and attention in our society.
- Who knows, who may be inflicted with these circumstances themselves – anyone at any time – Government Ministers and their families included.
- Who would you like to care for you or your family members?
- Therefore experienced, **well paid** professionals should be employed in this very specialised, ever increasing area of health need.

All members of society need to feel valued – treating others as we would like to be treated is a message that can be considered when decisions are made for those less fortunate in the very affluent society we live in.
It is *important* to be *nice* and *nice* to be *important*.

“Don’t let the truth get in the way of a good story”

I do not have the crystal ball.....

Yours sincerely

Dorothy