

Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth  
PO Box 6021  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

11/6/08  
[Insert date here]

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.

As a Carer, I feel that my role is ....

TO RAISE OUR SON (+ OUR OTHER 3 CHILDREN) UNTIL THEY ARE ADULTS WHEN THEY CAN LIVE INDEPENDENTLY OF US SO WE CAN ENJOY OUR RETIREMENT.

I face the following problems ...

ANDREW HAS SMITH MAGUIRE'S SYNDROME WHICH MEANS HIS BEHAVIOUR IS VERY BIRD, MY WIFE AND I STRUGGLE WITH THIS AS DO HIS SIBLINGS. HE DOES NOT SLEEP MUCH AND IS UP + INTO THINGS MOST OF THE NIGHT (FOOD TOOTH PASTE W/BOARDS - BASICALLY WHATEVER IS NOT LOCKED AWAY).

I need help with ...

ADDITIONAL RESPIRE CARE (OUT OF HOME) IS ESSENTIAL FOR US TO RECHARGE OUR BATTERIES AND ENJOY QUALITY TIME AS A "NORMAL" FAMILY. WE GET SOME NOW BUT WHOLLY UNRELY & ID WA ARE OVERSTRETCHED & UNDER RESOURCES. PLEASE HELP PLACES SUCH AS THESE TO MANAGE BETTER THEN THEY WILL BE  
I think the Government can better help Carers by ... BETTER ABLE TO HELP US.

INCREASING CARER ALLOWANCE & PAYMENTS PROVIDING MORE OUT OF HOME RESPIRE AND MOST OF ALL PUT MONEY INTO INDEPENDENT LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR WHEN DISABLED KIDS BECOME ADULTS. WE HAVE ALREADY DEDICATED 10 YEARS OF OUR LIVES TO CARING FOR ANDREW AND WE WANT SOME TIME FOR

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  
[Sign your name here]

**/// Inquiry into Better Support for Carers**

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,  
Community, Housing and Youth

OURSELVES WHEN HE IS AN ADULT. WE WANT THE GOV'T TO PROVIDE A PLACE FOR HIM IN INDEPENDENT ACCOMMODATION WHEN HE IS OLD ENOUGH. OURS SHOULD NOT BE A LIFE SENTENCE!