

Ludmilla

Submission No. 123
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 25/6/08

Secretary,
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers,
Standing Committee of Family, Community, Housing and Youth.,
P.O. Box 6021.
House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600.

7th June, 08

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.

My role as a Carer is looking after my husband who is 87 y.o. and has many problems, to name but a few: - the early stages of dementia, he has to use two sticks to aid walking, bad hearing even when wearing his hearing aids, and incontinence. I check his body to make sure he doesn't develop any more melanomas (he recently had many removed from his nose, face and left arm). I look after all his needs and do all the shopping.

However, the massive increase in Council Rates, cost of Petrol, and cost of food, and Cost of Living are causing a problem (financially) due to the lack of increase in the U.K. Pensions and the minor increase in the DSS Australia Pensions I am finding it very hard to maintain a reasonable standard of living for my husband and myself. I shall be 69 y.o. in a few days time and suffer from Hip problems, using a stick to aid walking; I also am under treatment for Hyperthermroidism.

I try to support my local Carers Society and, since I cannot afford to give them any money I have, recently, donated a Queen Size Quilt (valued at \$1,500) for them to Raffle. I made the quilt by hand and I am now in the process of making another so that I can donate it again for them to Raffle in the future.

Food prices have risen so much- I have to ration the food I issue to us both - to keep costs down and, I feel any increase in our pensions from DSS Australia and the Carers would be greatly appreciated by us all.

At the moment, we had a recent Termite invasion of our house, discovered lat last year - and the wet weather delayed progress in treatment and only today, we have the fifth visit from the Termite Man and we hope he will be able to complete his job - however, I am terrified at the thought of how much I will owe him.

I greatly appreciate the financial help issued in the past by the Howard Government and I hope that the Rudd Government will continue to help Carers in the future and stand by his statement on the 11th of March when he promised to give greater financial certainty for carers and pensioners into the long-term future.

Yours sincerely,

Ludmilla

Thank you for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committee's Inquiry. I look forward to reviewing the recommendations you make in order to improve support for carers.