

Submission No. 1305

(Better support for carers)

Acc 23/3/09

4th January 2009

The Secretary
House of Representatives
PO Box 8021
CANBERRA ACT 2600.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to an article, I read about in the December edition of Carers News I received last week. I hope that I am not too late to respond and make a request.

I am a carer, and know what it is like for all carers that look after sick adults and children, I am one of the lucky ones, I am at least able to work 2 days (14 hours) per week. Thankfully a few years ago the Government had the good sense to increase the hours a carer can work, volunteer etc from 20-25 hours per week. That in it's self has taken a lot of the stress off me, a couple more changes to the legislation would be an even bigger improvement, and would take even more stress of carers.

What needs to happen is to have the **TRAVELLING TIME** that carers need to allow for when working 25 hours per week needs to be abolished. In some cases having to account for travelling times puts a carer who wants to work or volunteer to maintain social contact at a disadvantage, as most jobs are over 3 days, and depending on the area taking that job would take you over your required 25 hours per week including travelling. I am not the only one complaining about the **TRAVELLING TIME** rule I have a friend who is in the situation, as I would imagine every carer who can work would be. These days most positions that are vacant are out of your area, you get a bit down and depressed when you see a great job you want to apply for and cannot as it would take you over your travelling time.

The ruling for respite needs to be changed slightly, at the moment you cannot not take multiples of one days respite to work and extra day or undertake training. You **MUST** take a full 5 days.

I totally understand that, there must be a legislation, for carers and I make sure that I adhere to the rules, but come on we carers are doing a great job caring for the sick, so they are not taking up hospital beds etc, surely we deserve some changes to the legislation. I would be happy to

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Kaylene