

Submission No. 159.1
(Inq into better support for carers)

From: Deborah
Sent: Monday, 16 June 2008
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: addendum to submission

Dear Sir/Madam

Further to my earlier submission, I wish to add this final piece of information.

I finished my submission by outlining the last three weeks of my life as a carer. I feel this week deserves to be added to the information I sent earlier, as it has driven home the final blow to mine, and my husband's ability to continue in our caring role.

I phoned the Minister for Disability Services again to see what action had been taken at a Ministerial level regarding the withdrawal of services in my area. The person I spoke to replied by asking me if anything had changed. I commented that was the information I was hoping to get from this phone call. She said she would look into it and call me back today.

Well, that phone call did not come. The issue was handed down the line to a person from Disability Services Queensland, who's only comment was that she was very sorry for my situation.

That call came just 10 minutes after I phoned Centrelink to enquire again if they had received my son's Mobility Allowance Review forms yet. I was told that they could not tell me because I had no authority to talk to them about my son. After 28 years of taking care of every facet of his life, including all the invasive and personal information that Centrelink demand on a regular basis - all of a sudden for no reason anyone can explain - except that some other consent form must have expired - possibly- I am not allowed to do this for my son even though he can neither read, write or understand their forms.

I am now at my wits end with this farcical and senseless system. I now have to get a letter from our GP explaining why my son cannot sign the consent form to allow me to talk to Centrelink. My husband and I have discussed fully our intentions, and for the sake of our own sanity we are left with no choice but to give up caring for our son. There is no piece of mind, no sanity and no concern for our wellbeing in this sad and pathetic life. I love my son, but I cannot stand the system with it's cruel and heartless treatment of people trying to do the right thing.

I hope you read this addendum, and try to imagine yourself dealing with what my family have gone through this past month. The depression, the worry, the tears - not for the first time - this is the sort of ridiculous torment my family have struggled through for 28 years. It is too big a job for us.