

A.o.c. 26/6/08

Submission No. 178
(Inq into better support for carers)

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

12 June 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 for Carers.

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

Important in keeping my wife who suffers from Alzheimer's at home and not in a Nursing Home, although that will be a fact one day.

I face the following problems ...

My wife is incapable of doing much around the house, so cooking, cleaning etc falls to me. She also needs assistance with her dress.

Susan also suffers from incontinence thus placing further pressure on me.

We can no longer go out to the movies as she becomes very vocal with arm waving etc. This also happens when watching TV at home but is easily controlled. There is then the matter of becoming easily lost in unfamiliar places. I have needed to call on the Albany Police station for assistance once and the security staff of Westfield's.

I need help with ...

More respite care, this would assist my stress levels. It would also be very helpful if incontinence aids were less expensive, at the moment 14 pair of depend are used a week, this is expensive.

My stress levels become high at times due to problems created by wife and how best to handle these "childish" situations, which is where we are in our Alzheimer journey. _____

I think the Government can better help Carers by ...

Ensuring the Carers allowance is more realistic. Incontinence aids are cheaper, and that regular respite is also more realistic and available. _____

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.