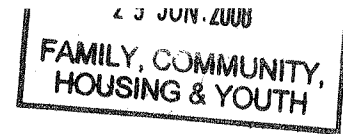


Submission No. 333

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 1/7/08

Claudia



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

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.

I feel my role as a carer is demanding and tiring.

I contribute to Australian society by being my husband's full time carer. This takes the strain of the government by not having to be him put in care.

I can't fully participate in social life because my husband, being disable, it makes it hard to access many places and because he has trouble going to these places it means I can't always go. It is not just a simple thing of saying to someone I will be there because I have to put in place so many other things before I am able to go. It would be nice to just get up and go.

With the extra we have to pay for his disable equipment and what ever modifications we need to do to the house it is often a struggle to make ends meet.

I worry about my future because I have also been sick with cancer (3) and I am concerned that if ever these cancers return who will be there to care for my husband should I get sick and die. It sometimes comes down to my looking after myself and it is not always possible when being a carer is so demanding.

The things that stress me most about being a carer are not having enough time for myself. I am able to sometimes attend places on my own but a lot a times I refuse to when I know that I would be away from home for some time. I some times get very jealous when I see other people just being able to do things that I am not in a position to do.

I would love there to be more respite care accommodation for my husband that is not an aged care facility. It is not fare to think that when I need a rest I have to put him in an old persons home so rather than do that I try to carry on the way things are now and not have a rest.

I think if the government were to put in place respite accommodation for younger people, my husband being in his sixties it would alleviate the stress and the tiredness that I suffer.

I class myself as an older carer being 59yrs old. I know that I am not as young as I used to be and that my body finds it harder to keep up the demands put on my caring for my husband.

My husband has Multiple Sclerosis which means my role as a carer has been long term and I could still be a long time caring.

I love my husband very much and he appreciates what I do for him so therefore I don't find it a burden taking care of him. I would just like for the government to appreciate our role in life and consider our plight when making some of their decisions

Thank you for taking my views into consideration as part of the inquiry. I look forward to reviewing any recommendations you make to improve life for a carer

Yours Truly
Claudia