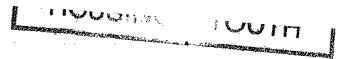


Committee Secretary  
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,  
Community, Housing and Youth  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission No. 440  
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 2/7/08



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.

I am submitting to the Inquiry because...

I am a carer for my disabled daughter and have been for the past 49+ years. My daughter requires 24 hour support and we live in a rural area.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

1. The role and contribution of carers in society

As a carer, I feel that my role is... to provide the best care for my daughter, to allow her to reach her potential, enjoy her life, to enable her to live in the community and for her to feel safe, happy and loved. This role means I need to co-ordinate others, including services, needing to come up with new ideas for my daughter, checking up on services and working with them and having my my daughter's needs held in my mind and heart all day every day. Carers have a unique insight into the needs for a disabled person and have a wealth of information to help others and services  More information is attached on a separate sheet

2. The barriers to social and economic participation for carers

As a carer, I face the following problems ... My role means I am unable to be away from home from 3 pm onwards, all day, weekends & holidays hence restricts certain activities. This includes meetings for her - if at these times I cannot go. The lack of options for my daughter's future care and accommodation means my time and concern is thinking and planning her future as I am an aging carer. The recent restrictions of respite in this rural region has increased demands upon myself and limits options. Being a rural family means additional limitations in <sup>the</sup> specific region. We currently only have access  More information is attached on a separate sheet to respite on alternate weeks and this does not correlate to the Day Centre closing periods

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

carer support - more respite options in our area, & all areas  
to be able to access respite when the occasion arises - not on alternate  
two weeks. There are 60 adult families on the DHS respite house, - a  
four bedroomed house and the only DHS respite home in Wangaratta  
have respite homes

More information is attached on a separate sheet

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

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

more respite homes,  
providing more long term accommodation - our children & we as carers  
deserve this. I am a 76 year old carer & should not have the great concern  
and worry that there is no accommodation available for my nearly 50 year  
old, severely disabled daughter. This is a frightening situation to  
be in & surely the Government  More information is attached on a separate sheet  
should take some responsibility for this situation and be able  
to remedy it - please God they can & will.

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.

Yours sincerely

UNA

Print your name

24-6-08

Date