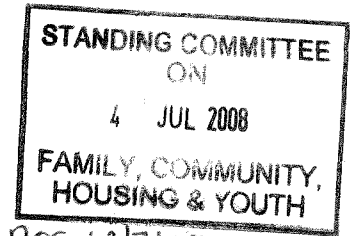


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Box 187108

Submission No. 926
(Inq into better support for carers)

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 LOOKING FOR HELP, AS I HAD TO LEAVE WORK WHEN I WAS 48 BECAUSE MY WIFE COULD NOT LOOK AFTER OUR MENTALLY & PHYSICALLY DISABLED SON BY HERSELF. WE HAD JUST MOVED INTO OUR NEW HOUSE 2 YEARS EARLIER AND IT WAS A REAL STRUGGLE TO MAKE ENDS MEET. I ALSO HAVE 4 OTHER CHILDREN

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...

NOT UNDERSTOOD BY MOST, MY WIFE AND I CAN ONLY GO OUT TOGETHER WHEN OUR SON IS IN RESPIRE. THIS CONSISTS OF APPROX 8 WEEKENDS A YEAR. WE ALSO GET 3 HOURS A WEEK, BUT APART FROM THIS WE ARE VIRTUALLY A GROUNDED FAMILY.

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 ...

WHEN WE HAVE VISITORS OR GO OUT WITH OUR SON WE ARE ON HIGH ALERT, AS HE CAN BECOME CHEEKY ETC TO OTHERS. WE REALLY ONLY RELAX WHEN WE ARE BY OURSELVES. ECONOMICALLY WE MAKE ENDS MEET BY USING OUR CREDIT CARDS AND PAYING THE YEARLY CARERS BONUS STRAIGHT ON TO THE CARDS. ALSO OUR CHILDREN HELP-

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

MORE AVAILABLE RESPITE CARE FOR MY SON, AS THERE
IS A LOT OF CATCHING UP WITH JOBS AROUND THE
HOUSE. BEING A RESPONSIBLE CARER IS VERY TIME
CONSUMING. ALSO PRACTICAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE,
AS I GAVE AWAY MY FINANCIAL FUTURE WHEN I STOPPED
WORKING TO CARE FOR MY SON.

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 ...

MAINTAINING AND INCREASING THE CARER BONUS AS
WELL AS INCREASING THE CARER ALLOWANCE AND PAYMENT.
INCREASE RESPITE CENTRES AND HOME HELP SERVICES.
ALSO LET US KNOW IN WRITING WHAT WE ARE ENTITLED
TO FROM THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, SO WE
DON'T HAVE TO HUMBLY ASK FOR HELP.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

(P.S. OPEN YOUR HEART, AT THE MOMENT MY SON THINKS
I AM UPSET WITH HIM AS I AM IN MY ROOM FILLING OUT
THIS SUBMISSION)

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

A.S.

Signature

ANTHONY GORDON

Print your name

01/07/2008

Date