

**Submission No. 974**

(Inq into better support for carers)

**From:****Sent:** Friday, 4 July 2008 1:40 PM**To:** Committee, FCHY (REPS)

I am the sole carer of my 22 year old son, who is legally blind as a result of a brain tumour diagnosed when he was 9 years old. His health is still variable and he will have ongoing medical costs for the rest of his life.

My immediate response to how I can best be assisted at this point would be financial.

I attempted to gain some financial support from my ex husband when my son turned 18. The whole process was an ordeal and I came to the conclusion that although the Family Law Act provisions address very well my sons and my situation, the court failed outrageously to enforce the provisions made for disabled children and the parent who cares for them.

The Federal Magistrates Court failed to protect my sons rights to be provided for by the parent who is financially very well off, whilst my son and I struggle to make ends meet.

I spent money I could ill afford pursuing this hopeless case. The only winners were the solicitors and my ex husband.

I couldnt understand why I had to go through this when the situation was quite plain. Both parents must be made to meet their responsibilities, at least financially.

I would like your committee to look into the process of child support for disabled children. This should not be dealt with through the courts. If it is to be left to the courts, then a much more sympathetic and enlightened approach needs to be adopted.

I'm quite sure there are many other carers in this situation.

I wish my name to be withheld