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Kind Regards

Acc 21/7/08

Submission No. 982

(Inq into better support for carers)

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From: tom**Sent:** Friday, 4 July 2008 12:14 PM**To:** Committee, Reps (REPS)**Subject:** Inquiry into better support for carers [SEC=IN-CONFIDENCE:COMMERCIAL]

I wish to make a submission to the House of Representatives standing Committee on Family, Community and Youth's Inquiry into better support for carers.

I am submitting to the Inquiry because I am the carer of a child with special needs, and 4 children with general needs. I feel that I am well placed to comment on the difference in inputs that are required between my children and people in similar circumstances.

My personal life is very busy I work full-time hours and squeeze this into 8.5 days a fortnight to maximise my time at home and allow my wife the options she needs to work part time out of the home and to attend school related activities.

Carers, and their families, play a significant part in their local communities, through their willingness to be there.

They are there for their own children as loving parents, they are there because not to be there would mean no activities for dependant children. They are there because of love.

In my professional capacity I administer Social Security Law and see the effect that changes introduced to increase participation have on carers of children with disabilities. The exemptions that can be applied for this category of principle carer can in some cases see the loss of carer allowance for the child with a disability.

The lack of empathy sometimes can make these very community minded people feel like they are being judged as slackers who are trading on the fact that they have a disabled child to get a free ride. The level of involvement required to get a child through the school year is enormous. In my case this involves parent support group meetings, speech pathology, occupational therapy, remedial reading, behavioural modification, toilet training for a 7 year old, and all of this so that my child can attend a mainstream school because he has some capacity to benefit from this.

Marriage breakdowns are not uncommon with carer families due to the strain, cases of depression, and the pure physical toll that can be exerted on the bodies of carers all add to barriers to social and economic participation.

THE QUALIFICATION FOR CARER PAYMENT IS TOO STRINGENT AND DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL THAT HAS TOO HAPPEN FOR DISABLED CHILDREN.

I will ask you. What employer will take on a person who has too attend business hour appointments on a weekly basis, or who has too leave work on a moments notice to attend to a child who has to go home from school, and for disabled children this proportionately high due to behaviours and lack of understanding of some teachers in the school system.

I have seen instances where this happens 3-4 times a week for some carers.

I see tired desperate people who are being asked to give more of themselves when there is no more to give.

7/07/2008
