

SOUTH GIPPSLAND CARERS GROUP

(inc CARERS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA)

“ Caring for the Carers ”

The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs References Committee
Canberra

14 July 2006

Re: Inquiry into CSTDA.

I am writing to you on behalf of the South Gippsland Carers Group, re the plight of Family Carers and the Disabled, in our community.

There are 2300 Family Carers and 5062 Disabled people, within our Shire. (DHS #)

There are NO suitable supported accommodation within our Shire.

There are NO suitable Respite facilities, that would enable Family Carers, to have a decent break away from the extraordinary demands, that are placed upon them.

Family Carers provide 91% of care in the community, and they desperately need support and they need to be recognised.

AIHW in 2005, stated, that Family Carers in Australia saved the economy, \$32.2 billion per annum.

The Government uses the term, "Mutual Obligation" quite frequently, however it does not seem to be Mutual to Family Carers and the Disabled-- why is this so ?

September 30, 2000-- Minister D Kemp, granted to all private schools, up to \$ 5721 for each student. Reason, they saved the Australian economy \$ 2.2 billion p.a
IS THIS FAIR AND JUST ??

A sweeping review of policies is urgently required, with the view to :

- * Establishing a just Carer payment for all eligible Family Carers-- such a payment must reflect the true value of Family Carers contribution to the national economy.
- * To dramatically increase the number of suitable supported accommodation options, in order to relieve the stress and burden, for Aged, Frail and Ill Carers.
- * To immediately allocate funding to establish, Respite services, that ensures all unpaid Family Carers have access to an annual holiday length break, -- as do the entire paid workforce.
- * Provide service tailored to their individual circumstances and reflect an awareness of differing racial and cultural backgrounds.

The critical shortage in Disability support services, have been known since the ABS survey,1993. the AIHW forum 2002 in Melbourne indicated that without doubt, that minimal improvement had occurred.

We believe that ALL services, need to originate from the Federal Govt.-- as this may

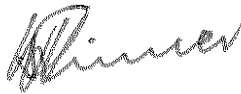
eliminate the "Blame Game" played by Federal/ State Govts.

IF YOU ARE NOT PART OF THE SOLUTION-- ARE YOU PART OF THE PROBLEM??

Can you assure us that the gravity of the Family Carer situation, will be taken very seriously and that you will make this a matter of prime importance within the inquiry and in the Parliament.

We look forward to your earliest response.

Yours sincerely,
W Skinner



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