



26-04-05

Submission to
Select Committee Secretary

I am writing to the Parliamentary Secretary on the important matter of insufficient funding, services, and provisions for persons suffering from mental illnesses, and their primary carers.

My background is as follows. I am the primary carer for my chronic ill daughter who suffers from schizophrenia anxiety, O.C.D's and depression for these past 20 years. I have had to leave my position as a senior social worker R.G.H.(H) after 20 years working in ICU/CCU hospital settings. I receive a Carers Allowance of a laughable \$45 odd dollars a week.

I receive no other assistance, benefits or relief from my most important role as a full-time carer. Recently I fractured my ankle (3 bones which did not heal appropriately) and was hospitalized for 4 days, then bed-bound for 10 weeks (in plaster cast).

To add further insult to this injury I had a call from Dept of Social Security informing me that I was unable to leave my home & care of daughter for this period of time while hospitalized, due to my carers allowance commitments. I needed to inform the Dept. of my hospitalization and the period of time that I was "not caring for my daughter". I was informed that despite care was available for my daughter. Of course she would never leave our home for R/R. And I see from recent statistics 98% of mentally ill persons refuse R/R care. I was also offered an appointment with their

