

**From:**  
**To:** [Stewart, Carol \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Senate Inquiry for grandparents Raising their Grandchildren  
**Date:** Thursday, 27 February 2014 10:14:07 AM

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Dear Ms Stewart,  
Please accept my submission for this inquiry  
Regards

Grandparents who take on the primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren Inquiry  
Dear Senator,  
Grandparents have long performed the role of short term, weekend sleep overs and occasional care providers for their grandchildren however in recent years an increasing number of grandparents are shifting away from the more "traditional " grandparent role and becoming the grandchild/ren's parents.  
These Grandparents now provide full-time care and face many challenges. Majority of these grandparents are 60 plus. The issues they face include financial problems, legal issues, school issues, emotional and physical problems, health issues for the child and let us not forget the physical, emotional and health problems of the grandparents  
Instead of just having fun and spoiling the grandchildren, grandparent carers must now take on the parenting role of provider, disciplinarian, decision maker, and become the authority figure.

Unlike "traditional "grandparents we are not able to hand back after a visit or weekend stay grandparents like us do not have this bonus. We cannot slow down to retire, it is parenting second time around. Getting grandchildren to school, doctor's appointment, after school activities, speech therapy, psychologist appointments, sport on the weekends, going shopping for clothes can become a nightmare. The list goes on ..... who has time to sit and smell the roses?

I would like to see the fundamental role that these grandparents play within the community recognized  
by the Federal and State Governments. Also to be able to seek support resuming the parenting role at 60 plus is extremely difficult and does result in unexpected social problems, financial problems and health problems for the grandparents.  
Both governments should address the grandparent's needs and perhaps give them the same benefits as foster carers after all we are not the child's mum or dad ?

Grandparent carers need support from everyone in the community to help in raising these grandchildren, let's not forget they are the future of all Australians.

Thankyou very much for this opportunity to have a voice and for you all to listen to the concerns and  
Hurdles that grandparents have in raising grandchildren full-time.  
Grandmother of raising a grandchild since 2006 and many more years to come