

23/07/15

Dear Committee,

I will make my submission brief as I am living with a debilitating condition which severely limits my abilities.

My condition is known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, medically named Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME/CFS).

I became ill in 2008, and was forced to quit my promising Accounting career in 2010, at age 28. My symptoms have been likened by medical professionals as close to late stage cancer or HIV.

I survive on an insurance policy, but may soon require government support.

If it were my choice I would be back in work and contributing to the economy, rather than relying on it.

I beg that you find more resources to dedicate to ME/CFS research. There is almost no funding for the condition which affects 94,000 people in Australia, creating an estimated \$4 billion in lost earnings.

It is the last major illness for which we know almost nothing about.

ME/CFS lives in the shadows because sufferers like me use all our energy to survive, and cannot effectively advocate for the condition.

I'm certain a cure can be found if the will is behind it.

Please help.

Yours sincerely,