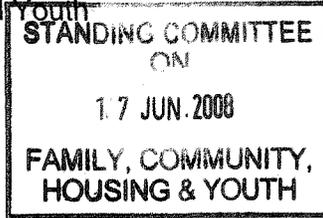


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission No. 126
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 25/6/08



Dear Secretary

I wish to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth's Inquiry into Better Support for Carers.

I am submitting to the Inquiry because...

I AM 81 YEARS OLD - I AM VISUALLY IMPAIRED
HAVE HEALTH PROBLEMS - DIABETES 2 - ANGINA -
AND ARTHRITIS - AND I AM CARING FOR MY 54 YEAR OLD
AUTISTIC SON - WHO SUFFERS ALSO FROM TOURETTES SYNDROME
AND EPILEPSY -

More information is attached on a separate sheet

1. The role and contribution of carers in society

As a carer, I feel that my role is...

PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR MY 54 YEAR OLD SON
ATTENDING TO HIS NEEDS - COOKING - MEDICAL
APPOINTMENTS - MEDICATION - SOCIAL OUTINGS
- 24 HOUR CARE - 7 DAYS A WEEK - IS
PROVIDED BY ME ALONE -

More information is attached on a separate sheet

2. The barriers to social and economic participation for carers

As a carer, I face the following problems ...

ISOLATION - INCREASING COSTS OF TRAVEL AND
HOUSEHOLD NECESSITIES - WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE
CARE OF MY SON - NOT ENOUGH MONEY TO
MANAGE FOR A HOLIDAY BREAK FOR EITHER
OF US - WHAT HAPPENS IF MY HEALTH FAILS ENTIRELY -

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

PLANNING FOR MY SONS FUTURE CARE AND
WELL BEING WHEN I DIE - OR WHEN THROUGH
CHRONIC ILLNESS I AM NO LONGER ABLE TO
CARE FOR HIM - I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE
SOME "OUTSIDE THE HOME" HELP WITH MY GARDEN -
AND SHOPPING. AND SOCIAL OUTINGS

More information is attached on a separate sheet

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

I think the Government can better help carers by ...

MAKING INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS FORMS
SUCH AS BOOKS - ARTICLES - PRACTICAL ADVICE -
HELP ADVICE - AND REFERRALS - TO PROVIDE A
SOURCE OF CONTACT - FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
AND PERSONNEL - TO ADDRESS URGENT SHORTAGE OF ACCOMMODATION
- INCREASING CARERS ALLOWANCE -

More information is attached on a separate sheet

Thank you for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committee's Inquiry. I look forward to reviewing any recommendations you make to improve life for carers in Australia.

Yours sincerely

Signature

DULLIE

Print your name

8-06-2008.

Date

ITEM INTRODUCTION.

"AS A CARER I FEEL MY ROLE IS"

AS A CARER I AM MAKING THIS SUBMISSION.

I AM NOW 81 YEARS OLD - I WAS BORN IN 1926
MY HUSBAND DIED IN 1984 HE WAS A WAR VETERAN
OF WORLD WAR II.

- THE WAR WIDOWS PENSION IS MY MAIN INCOME
SINCE 2006 I APPLIED FOR A CARERS ALLOWANCE
AS THE SOLE CARER OF MY 54 YEAR OLD SON
WHO IS IN RECEIPT OF A DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION
- HE SUFFERS FROM . AUTISM . TOURETTES SYNDROME AND
PETIT MAL SEIZURES . . DIAGNOSED IN 1961 .

I HAVE CARED FOR PAUL FOR HIS ENTIRE LIFE

- SINCE 2006 I RECEIVE A CARERS ALLOWANCE OF
\$100.60 PER FORTNIGHT

IN 2007 DUE TO MY INCREASING AGE I
APPLIED TO VCAT TO APPOINT A PUBLIC TRUSTEE
TO MANAGE HIS FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

FROM THE TRUSTEES. IS

HIS CONTACT PERSON

- I ALSO APPLIED TO VCAT TO APPOINT A PUBLIC
ADVOCATE FOR GUARDIANSHIP OF HIS . MEDICAL
• DENTAL AND . HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

FROM THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE

IS HIS CONTACT PERSON

- THE E.W. TIPPING FOUNDATION HAVE BEEN
ASSISTING WITH SOME "HOME SKILLS TRAINING" FOR
WHEN . . . FINALLY GOES TO LIVE WITHOUT ME
THIS TRANSITIONAL PERIOD IS NOT EASY FOR
ME DUE TO LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF CHOICES
AVAILABLE.

- I LOOK AFTER MY SON 7 DAYS A WEEK - 24 HOURS
DAILY - 52 WEEKS OF THE YEAR -

Signa

ITEM 1.

AS A CARER MY ROLE IS

- I PROVIDE FULL TIME CARE ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT FOR MY 54 YEAR OLD SON WHO IS DISABLED.
- CARERS PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN SOCIETY BY LESSENING THE STRAIN ON WELFARE SERVICES AND CARING INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY
- I AM THE MOTHER OF EIGHT CHILDREN. THE ELDEST IS NOW A 64 YEAR OLD WIDOW THE YOUNGEST IS 47 YEARS OLD. THEY HAVE ALL MOVED AWAY FROM HOME. THEY HAVE THEIR OWN CAREERS - CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN. THEY CANNOT HELP ME WITH
- I HAVE TO LOOK AFTER MEDICATION - MEALS - AND MAKE SURE THE HOME SITUATION IS COMFORTABLE AND FREE FROM UPSETS.
- I HAVE TO MANAGE TO PROVIDE THE BEST CARE POSSIBLE EVEN THOUGH I AM NOW 81 YEARS OLD. AND HAVE TO WORK ON A FRUGAL FINANCIAL BUDGET

Signed -

8-06-2008

APPENDIX 3

ITEM 2

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC BARRIERS.

THE BIG BARRIER IS ISOLATION FROM THE COMMUNITY - CARING FOR A DISABLED PERSON IS FULL TIME -

MY SON BECOMES FRUSTRATED AND UPSET WHEN HE HAS TO MOVE OUT OF HIS ROUTINE THIS MEANS HE DOES NOT LIKE SOCIALISING

• HOLIDAYS WITHOUT ME TO CALM HIM ARE NOT POSSIBLE

A BIG BARRIER FOR HOLIDAYS IS THE LACK OF SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR TWO - SUCH AS A SELF CONTAINED CABIN - IN A HOLIDAY LOCATION.

• OPPORTUNITIES FOR PART TIME EMPLOYMENT IN A SHELTERED ENVIRONMENT ARE LIMITED FOR THE DISABLED. CARERS ARE NOT PRESENTED WITH CHOICES AVAILABLE TO GENERATE EXTRA INCOME. WITHOUT AFFECTING THEIR PENSION ALLOWANCE

• AS CARERS REACH THE AGE OF 80 YEARS THE CARING SITUATION IS FRAUGHT WITH GREATER PROBLEMS

FOR EXAMPLE: I SUFFER FROM ANGINA. DIABETES 2. ARTHRITIS. I AM LEGALLY BLIND YET. WHEN I APPLIED FOR ASSISTANCE I FOUND I WAS TOLD MY SON COULD NOT BE PLACED ON A "PRIORITY" LIST FOR HOUSING - OR "FUNDING FOR DISABILITY SUPPORT"

• ALTHOUGH THE SUBMISSIONS WERE ACCEPTED THESE DO NOT RECEIVE A PRIORITY RATING. A "PRIORITY" RATING FOR THE DISABLED, WHO ARE BEING CARED FOR - BY A FAMILY MEMBER OVER 80 YEARS OLD. SHOULD BE GRANTED.

Signe

APPENDIX 4

ITEM 3

AS A CARER I NEED HELP

I PARTICULARLY NEED HELP NOW I AM 81 YEARS OLD. I NEED TO HAVE TRANSITIONAL AID WHEN RELINQUISHING MY ROLE AS A CARER.

- THIS TRANSITIONAL PERIOD IS CONFRONTATIONAL. IN 2007 MY SON INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE TO TRY LIVING INDEPENDENTLY AN APPLICATION WAS MADE FOR HIM TO OBTAIN A UNIT. THIS APPLICATION WAS GRANTED AND HE WAS PLACED ON A WAITING LIST. HE WAS REFUSED 'HIGH PRIORITY' RATING. BECAUSE OF ME BEING HIS CARER! YET I AM 81. AND MY DAYS OF CARING ARE DRAWING TO A CLOSE - (MAY EVEN BE OVER WHEN THIS IS READ)
- IT WOULD HAVE HELPED ME HAD I BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT MY SON THROUGH THIS TRANSITIONAL STAGE - AND EASED MY MIND.
- IN 2007 - MY SON APPLIED FOR "DISABILITY SUPPORT" HIS APPLICATION WAS APPROVED HOWEVER AGAIN HE WAS NOT GIVEN "PRIORITY" - BUT ONLY "WHEN RESOURCES BECAME AVAILABLE - I WAS REGRETTFULLY TOLD THIS COULD INVOLVE A LONG 'WAITING' PERIOD - I AND MANY OTHER ELDERLY CARERS HAVE GIVEN THEIR ENTIRE LIVES TO CARING NOW WE ARE GETTING CLOSE TO "HEAVENS DOOR" WE NEED HELP URGENTLY. TO ENSURE WE LEAVE OUR CHARGES IN THE BEST CARE AVAILABLE.
- ON A LESSER PRIORITY - I WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED SOME HELP WITH MY GARDEN. IT WAS MY MAIN PLEASURE NOW. I CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY A GARDENER TO DO

APPENDIX 5

ITEM 4

STRATEGIES TO ASSIST CARERS

- AGING CARERS - PARTICULARLY
- WHEN A CARER REACHS THE AGE OF 80 YEARS
- A STRATEGY SHOULD BE IN PLACE THAT WILL LESSEN "WAITING PERIODS" FOR ASSISTANCE. THE ELDERLY CARERS HAVE NO TIME TO WAIT. THEY HAVE SERVED THEIR TIME.
- A STRATEGY SHOULD BE IN PLACE TO GIVE AGING CARERS AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ABOUT CHOICES. VERY OFTEN BECAUSE OF THEIR ROLE IN CARING THEY HAVE BECOME ISOLATED FROM THE COMMUNITY SUCH A SENIOR CITIZENS CLUBS ETC. - THEATRES - RESTURANTS - SHOPPING ETC
- A STRATEGY SHOULD BE IN PLACE TO GIVE THE AGING CARERS - PRACTICAL HELP AND ADVICE - COUNSELLING FOR GRIEF - PROVIDE REFERRALS
- A STRATEGY TO ASSESS EVERY AGING CARER INDIVIDUALLY. AND POINT TO THE AREAS WHERE ASSISTANCE IS MOST NEEDED.
- MORE PERSONELL FOR THESE ASSESSMENTS ARE REQUIRED
- A STRATEGY TO ASSIST WITH THE FINANCIAL BURDEN CARRIED BY CARERS IS VITAL.
- IT IS IMPORTANT AGING CARERS ARE INFORMED OF ^{ALL} OPTIONS AVAILABLE. WHEN THEY FINALLY HAVE TO RELINQUISH THEIR ROLE OF CARING

8/6/08