

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

A.O.C. 26/6/08

Submission No. 172

(Inq into better support for carers)

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 STRONGLY BELIEVE CARERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF
THIS NATION & ARE TAKEN FOR GRANTED, PAID A PITTANCE
WHICH THEY LITERALLY HAVE TO BEG FOR, & LIVE IN CONSTANT
FEAR THAT THEIR BONUSES WILL BE TAKEN FROM THEM

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...

TO BE ON DUTY, OR ON CALL, 24/7 FOR MY
HUSBAND. THIS CONTINUES WITH INCREASING NECESSITY
AS HE AGES & OF COURSE I AM AGEING TOO &
IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR ME BOTH
PHYSICALLY & MENTALLY.

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 ...

WHEN MY HUSBAND, A VIETNAM VETERAN, HAD TO LEAVE WORK (RETIRE)
AT AGE 57 DUE TO ILL HEALTH, I ALSO HAD TO LEAVE MY
WELL PAID JOB TO CARE FOR HIM. AS TIME HAS PASSED & HE
CONTINUES HIS TREATMENTS I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WORK ONE
DAY PER WEEK FOR \$15/HR. THIS HAS IMPACTED STRONGLY ON
OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

More ~~carers~~ ^{respite} + a higher carer's allowance
that reflects the value of my work.

Carers also face the dilemma that if the person being
cared for pre-deceases the carer, the carer has been
out of the work force for so long it is too late or too hard
to get back in, + the pension More information is attached on a separate sheet
is not enough to live on.

4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices

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

Treating them with respect + sympathy, paying them
accordingly + stop making them beg for their bonus!
They should consider the enormous burden that would
be placed on the Government if these carers stopped
doing what they do.

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

JANICE

Print your name

8 JUNE 2008

Date