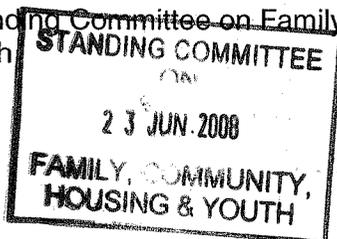


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission No. 316
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 30/6/08



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 the parent and carer of an artistic child. It is something I never planned for or expected in my life. My husband and I have made countless sacrifices and we still do make daily personal sacrifices to keep our son happy and comfortable in his home life. 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 prepare my son as much as I can to hopefully one day function in society with some degree of 'independance' ^{and purpose.} My role is to nurture and care for him and to be there for him for the difficulties he is facing and will continue to face in his integration to school etc.

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 ...

- a) my son needs specialised care, so I cannot depend on family or friends to help me in caring for him.
- b) We have very limited respite - only 4hrs a fortnight from the council.
- c) When we got his diagnosis we were given many choices, but not enough information or help as to which agency to choose for his special needs
- d) He has needed alot of speech therapy which has cost our family alot of money and time. More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with continuing to provide the support my son needs in his integration at school, which is difficult now that I have two younger children at home. I would like some home support to continue with his speech therapy and behavioural management when he is at home with some qualified professionals on a regular basis. I would like to see where the government funding on autism support is being spent.

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 ...

- a) providing funding for more respite for carers on a regular basis.
- b) providing a 'case support worker' once the child is at school age and helping the parents/carers with information on intervention/programs suited to each child at school, and also what reinforcement therapy can be done at home
- c) a centralised network where information can be sought for children of different age groups and abilities.

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

JENNY

Print your name

19/6/08

Date