27/06/08

Submission No. 612

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 8/7/08

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

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 a 75 yrs, old mother of a 53 yrs. old mentally disabled son, Kim He is able to attend Endeavour Industries Workshop for five days per week – in fact as a 6 year old he was one of he first pupils at the local Endeavour school.

My biggest worry is accommodation for Kim. He needs to be with his own friends, if possible and I cannot get funding. Endeavour asks for approximately \$40,000 annually.

Through the Carer Respite Centre in Mackay Kim recently has had two hours on a Saturday afternoon which he has really enjoyed. However, this funding has now finished but although I am an Age Pensioner I shall endeavour to keep the outings going even though the cost will be \$42 hourly plus fuel charge.

There are many aged people in Mackay requiring housing for handicapped sons and daughters and a cluster type of accommodation allowing for house parents or carers would be a dream come true.

I look forward to receiving and reviewing any recommendations you may make to improve the life for Carers in Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara