



Doc 17/7/08

Submission No. 897  
(Inq into better support for carers)



OLDER VETERANS PSYCHIATRY PROGRAM  
MENTAL HEALTH CLINICAL SERVICE UNIT  
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# FAX COVER SHEET

Date: 4/7/08

No of Pages (including cover page): 5

To: Inquiry Secretary

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From: Audine McQueen-McCabe - Social Worker

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Message: Thank you for accepting  
this submission to the  
Inquiry into better support for carers

from

Audine McQueen-McCabe

on behalf of the

OVPP - 3 Aged Care Support Group.

Original will/will not be sent

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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 submitting to the Inquiry because...

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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...

- 24 hours a day. Non-stop.  
- "As a carer I do not have a life"

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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 ...

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More information is attached on a separate sheet



3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

- Accessing carer support groups.
- Accessing community events. My time is so completely filled by caring I have no flexibility in my life. I need support to care well for my care-recipient.

\*  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 ...

- Increasing accessibility to ~~the~~ Carers Allowance & Carers Pension by greater consideration of & weighting of questions in relation to emotional & psychological care. Eligibility currently is very physical symptom-focused.
  - Increase amount of Carer Allowance & carer payment  More information is attached on a separate sheet
  - Increase access to respite
  - More flexible respite options & more creative models of respite
- 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

*Audine McEvern-McCabe*

Signature

Audine McEvern-McCabe

(Facilitator of OUPP/Agec care support group)

Print your name

4/7/08

Date

4 - Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital

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9496 2956

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- Greater numbers of community aged care packages / Extended aged care in the home / Dementia - Extended aged care in the home.
- ↑ Funding to reduce waitlists to ~~above~~ - mentioned community support packages
- ↑ Funding to employ greater numbers of case-managers
- Improved industrial conditions & wages in order to attract & retain good quality & well-trained case managers
- Extensive marketing & promotion of respite for carers as a "normal" & "mandatory" part of the role of caring - in order to provide for the sustainability of the carer role & the health of the carer. (ie: 'mainstreaming' the role of respite for all carers).
- Greater funding for carer support groups.

4) \* More flexible respite options  
 → holidays for carers + care recipient together where care recipient has a full-time carer taking over their care. This will free up the emotional, psychological & physical caring the usual carer provides. Usual carer & care recipient get the joy & benefit of holidaying together whilst free of the dynamic of carer/care recipient roles.

3) \* Support for carers when caring role ceases.  
 Assistance for carers to 'move on' & enter life after the role of caring has ceased. Car

continue to identify with the care-recipient long after they have passed away. Carers need assistance especially in transition phase.