

A.O.C. 3/6/08

From: angela
Sent: Monday, 2 June 2008 11:50 AM
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: assistance for carers

Hello, to whom it may concern.

I am writing to complain about the situation for Carers and their families.

As a mother and Carer of a young person with an intellectual disability (as well as a chronic medical condition) I find it very difficult to find appropriate services for him and to juggle work.

There don't seem to be any services in the ACT, where he can attend daily, between the hours of 9-5 and have quality care. It does not exist.

Luckily, we lived in Queanbeyan and have been able to continue sending him to a NSW organization, who provide care for 24 hours per week. Obviously, this is not enough, but it's the most we can get. Our family has to juggle taking him to work with us, which is not ideal, or working weekends, which we are forced to do. Or not working at all. We feel that our choices are severely limited.

This impacts on our family life, and makes living more difficult than it should be.

What we would like is an increase in appropriate care facilities, with well trained, and well paid staff, and/or more money to cope with the extra travel, or to pay someone to do the caring for us. As it is, the staff turnover at the facility we use, is very high, which causes stress and disruption to the lives of the people with disabilities.

It seems that the government is largely ignoring this problem.

We are under so much stress, that we barely have time to write this letter. We don't take holidays without our disabled son, and never actually have a break.

We would like to see some massive changes in this area. A bandaid solution is never going to work. We, as a society, really need facilities with nurses and trained professionals to give these people the care and attention they deserve.

Regards, Angela