

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

STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
18 JUN. 2008  
FAMILY, COMMUNITY,  
HOUSING & YOUTH

A.O.C. 27/6/08  
Submission No. 231  
(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...

of my empathy for other parents who have it harder than I do. I have family support. Lots of people don't. Education I believe is the key. Also more respite is needed. Parents with more severe children should have more!!!

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 raise my child (high functioning autism) so that he has a future + is not a burden to society. If I don't do my job we all pay a high price later when he can't look after himself.

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 ...

I can't hold down a paper job. I am building a business (cleaning/bookkeeping) so I can be there school holidays + after school. I can't ask somebody to share my child to school because of behavioural problems at times.

Socially we manage as if he isn't as severely as he used to be, but still for us to go away on a holiday just the two of us is hard who can manage him.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

most of my friends have special needs. I've lost a good friend because he didn't understand.

**3. The practical measures required to better support carers**

As a carer, I need help with ...

Respite, but also I am learning emotionally to cope better. Training to help parents deal on an emotional level. My children are at school this year + my depression is going as I learn to look at the positives not the negatives. It's only a tragedy if I make it one.

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 ...

provide more respite, also by providing better early education services. In the area of autism with early education you would eliminate major behaviour problems so therefore parents can cope better + not need as much respite. Financially it makes sense in the long run as the government will spend less money than having to support these children later. Fix the original problem.

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

Print your name

Elizabeth :

Date

14/6/08