

30 JUNE 2008

LOURDES

Submission No. 601

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 8/7/08

TO: COMMITTEE SECRETARY  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FAMILY  
COMMUNITY HOUSING AND YOUTH  
PO BOX 6021  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

1. I FEEL THAT MY RULE'S AS A CARER- THAT I AM REALLY OVER WORKED IN THE EXTREME. RE: ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK, AND 365 DAYS A YEAR
2. I CONTRIBUTE TO AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY BY, CARING FULL TIME FOR TWO PEOPLE UP TO 18 HRS A DAY, PLUS ALL THE COOKING, WASHING, SHOPPING, GOING TO THE DOCTOR WITH THEM, GOING TO HOSPITAL, GOING TO THE CHEMIST, CLEANING, IRONING, GARDENING, AND LAWN MOWING, PLUS THE STRESS, AND TENTION THAT COMES ALONG WITH ALL OF THE ABOVE.  
FOR WHICH I AM PAID A PETTENCE, IN THE WAY OF A CARER PAYMENT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.
3. I FACE THE FOLLOWING PROBLEM- BECAUSE OF THE ABOVE STATED, I MYSELF CANNOT LIVE A NORMAL LIFE IN DIGNITY FOR LUCK OF MONEY, ANY TREATS FOR MYSELF ANY PRESENTS FOR I CARE TO BUY, RE: BIRTHDAYS OR CHRISTMAS, AND I AM SICK OF COUNTING MY 10 CENT PIECES TO SEE EVERY TWO WEEKS IF HAVE ENOUGH MONEY OVER, TO BUY SOME DONUTS, ICE CREAM, OR EVEN A BLOCK OF CHOCOLATE, TO HAVE AS A FAMILY TREAT AFTER SUNDAY DINNER.  
PS: IM REALLY SICK AND TIRED OF BUYING OUT OF DATED MEATS FROM COLES AND WOLLIES FOR IT LOW PRICE.
4. I CANT FULLY PARTICIPATE IN SOCIAL LIFE BECAUSE- ALL MY TIME IS CONSUMED BEING A CARER.
5. I AM FINANCIALLY STRUGGLING BECAUSE- OF COMPLETELY INSUFFICIENT CARER PAYMENT.
6. WORKING FULLTIME OR PART TIME- IS NOT EVEN AN ISSUE FOR ME, THIS QUESTION IS JUST OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR ME, IN MY SITUATION AS ACCARER, I NEED TO SLEEP SOMETIMES.
7. I WORRY ABOUT MY FUTURE BECAUSE- I HAD NO SAVINGS, AND NO SUPERANNUATION OR HOLIDAY PAY. PS: I DO GET PLENTY OF UNPAID OVERTIME AS A CARER, I REALLY WORRY ABOUT MY FUTURE BECAUSE I KNOW MYSELF AS A CARER I HAVE NO FUTURE. SOMETIMES I HAVE A LAUGH TO MYSELF THAT I HAVE JOB SECURITY, FOR I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT NOBODY ELSE WOULD WANT TO TAKE MY JOB FROM ME.
8. THE THINGS THAT STRESS ME THE MOST ABOUT BEING A CARER ARE- IS THE FACT THAT PREVIOUSLY I WAS A PROFESIONAL PERSON AND VERY DELEGENT IN MY WORKED AND ROSE UP TO THE RANKS TO A HIGH POSITION IN THE COMMERCIAL WORLD, HAVING SAID THAT I KNOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS USING CARERS AS A BACK HANDED FORM OF BLACKMAIL FOR CARERS TO DO THE GOVERNMENT JOB FOR THEM.  
FOR THE GREATER PERCENTAGE OF CARERS, CARE FOR LOVE ONE AND FAMILY MEMBERS JUST BECAUSE THEY DO CARE FOR AND LOVE THOSE PARTICULAR PEOPLE, AND THE GOVERNMENT ALSO KNOWS THAT WITHOUT THIS CARERS, THE REAL EXPENSE TO THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ASTRONOMICAL AND THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO GET BACK TO BASICS ON THIS ONE, AND AT LEAST PAY ALL THE CARERS THE BASIC WAGE IMMEDIATELY IN REAL TERMS AND THAT WOULD BE ONLY A STARTING POINT. FINALLY

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY CARERS ARE REAL PEOPLE, DOING AN UNREAL JOB, AND CARERS DESPERATELY NEED REAL MONEY, SO AS TO BE APPRECIATED FOR THE WORK THEY DO, ETC, ETC. PS: BEING A CARER FOR ANOTHER PERSON CARRIES WITH IT A GREAT DEAL OF RESPONSIBILITY, THEIR WOULD BE NO JOB IN THE WORLD, THAT CARRIES MORE (RESPONSIBILITY THAN A CARERS JOB) IT TIME THE GOVERNMENT REALLY UNDERSTAND THE REAL TRUE HARD FACT OF BEING A CARER.!!!!

WHAT CARERS ARE REALLY DOING IS, PROPPING UP THE GOVERNMENT ITS WELL AND TRUALLY TIME NOW THAT THE REVERSE OF THAT APPLYS THE GOVERNMENT PROPS UP THE CARERS.

MY OWN EXPERIENCE AS A CARER I FINE EVERYTHING I TRY TO DO IN LIFE, ONEWAY OR ANOTHER COSTS YOU MONEY, AND BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT CARER PAYMENT, I FEEL I AM ALWAYS TAKING ONE STEP FORWARD AND TWO BACK? ETC, ETC.

I NEED THE CARER PAYMENT TO BE AT LEAST THE BASIC WAGE, AND I NEED THAT RIGHT NOW.

WITH AT LEAST THE BASIC WAGE I CAN HELP AND SUPPORT MYSELF IN SO MANY WAYS, THATS IMPOSSIBLE TO DO AT THE MOMENT.

I THINK THE GOVERNMENT CAN BETTER HELP CARERS BY, TAKING CARE OF CARERS NEEDS, AND THE CARERS NEED MUCH MORE MONEY THAN THEY ARE ( CURRENTLY RECIEVING) THAT A FACT.!!!

IT WILL HELP MYSELF TO MAINTAIN A MUCH BETTER LIFESTYLE AND ELEVATE MONEY WORRIES AND HELP ME TO MAINTAIN MY OWN HEALTH.

EVERYBODY IN THIS WORLD WORKS FOR MONEY, SO AS TO BETTER THEMSELVES, SUPPORT THEMSELVES AND GRADUATE TOWARD A BETTER LIFESTYLE.

CARERS WHOSE MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME IS A GOVERNMENT PENSION OR BENEFITS, THIS STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT PENSION OR BENEFITS, IS ONLY GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA.

AS A CARER IM NOT ON A PENSIONER AND AS FOR BENEFITS, I AM WORKING FOR A NOT AT ALL ADEQUATE PAYMENT, AND IN ACTUAL FACT BY ME BEING A CARER ALL THE BENEFITS GO TO THE ( GOVERNMENT)

AS A RURAL RESIDENT, THE TIME, MONEY, AND DISTANCE AND WAITING PERIOD TO ACCESS ANY OF THESE SERVICES IS A SOURCE OF CONSTANT WORRY TO MYSELF AT THIS TIME.

AS A CARER, I CARE FOR TWO PEOPLE:

1. JOHN ANTHONY
2. MICHAEL

JOHN WAS A CARER FOR THE LAST 20YRS, CARED FOR HIS MOTHER AND BROTHER, MICHAEL WAS A CHRONIC SCHIZOPHRENIA, AND HE NEED CONSTANT SUPERVISION 24HOUR A DAY, AS HE IS VERY DANGEROUS TO HIMSELF.

JOHN IS A DEFFIRENT STORY, WHEN HE TURNED 65th YRS OLD LAST YEAR, AFTER 20YRS OF WORKING AS A CARER, HE WAS DIASNOSED WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES WITH 33 BLOOD GLUCOSE SUGARS PLUS OSTEOPOROSIS, BLADDER CANCER, GOUT, HIGH BLOOD PREASURE, HIGH CHOLESTEROL, HE HAD BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL 10 TIMES FOR (CYSTOSCOPY IN THE LAST 12 MONTH.

THE BOTTON LINE TO ALL THESE, QUESTIONS IS THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO REALIZE (ASAP) AND TO EVEN BACK DATE THEIR THINKING AND FORGET ALL THIS TALK ABOUT PENSION AND BENEFITS, AND REALIZE CARERS WORK FOR A PAYMENT, WHICH IS COMPLETELY NOT AT ALL ADEQUATE AT THIS POINT IN TIME.

THE STRESS PLACE ON CARERS, BECAUSE OF LUCK OF MONEY IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE, AND THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS LEADS ME TO THINK SOMEDAYS ( THIS IS FUNNY BUT TRUE) THAT IS THIS SITUATION CONTINUE LIKE THIS, THAT I AM GOING TO NEED A CARER MYSELF ONEDAY.

YOURS TRUELY,  
LOURDES