

Submission No. 603
(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C. 8/7/08

30th June 2008

Antonia

Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth
PO BOX 6021
House of Representatives
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.

My role as a sole carer included daily tasks of feeding, personal care, and community outreach. I have a disability myself and at times struggle with the daily tasks associated with the high and complex care needs of my daughter, who is physically and intellectually disabled.

Being a full time carer has affected my life socially through not being able to have time out from my constant caring role to pursue interests of my own and make friendships and community connections. I additionally am unable to access the open employment market due to my own disability and the high level of constant care required for my daughter. Thus being a carer impacts on my family and myself through financial hardship, social isolation and physical impacts such as tiredness and frustration.

Additionally due to my daughter's disability and age I am unable to access some dire medications listed on the PBS (especially once my daughter turned 18). Thus practical measures that would better support me and my family would be more flexible PBS systems for people with disabilities who are adult age but child like in stature and needs. Additionally disability specific trained specialists and general practitioners would assist with the medical side of being a carer, as most doctors are not trained to deal with disabled patients. Furthermore carers and people with a disability require doctors that have the moral and ethical values to look at a person with a disability as an everyday human being rather than a sub human that does not deserve the same care as a non disabled person. These changes to the medical system

would assist me to better navigate and access the medical sector. Plus relieve the financial hardship that we face due to the high and regular costs associated with the care of my daughter.

Thank you for taking my views into consideration as part of the Committee's Inquiry. I look forward to reviewing the recommendations you make in order to improve and support for careers.

Yours sincerely

Antonia