

Dec 17/108

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

Submission No. 913  
(Inq into better support for carers)

HOUSING & YOUTH

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...

My husband & myself are the carers of our son who has suffered with a mental illness for the last 12 years. During this time we all have struggled without any assistance for most of this time.

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 protect and help provide as good a quality of life as possible for our son. But sadly there isn't any support or places for him and his parents are struggling to find care for him that we can manage.

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 ...

How to integrate a social with a dependent such as our son. Release time / holidays are extremely difficult for us. Unfortunately mental illness isn't a visible disability that receives enough support & funding for families. The means testing for financial support e.g. carers pension \$45 per week criteria needs to be more liberal & expanded.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

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

As a carer, I need help with ...

Trying to balance DHS, centrelink  
Mental Health eg. those services run  
independently of each other. Medical services  
are discontinued, We are powerless in  
many situations but we left to carry the load.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

**4. Strategies to assist carers to access opportunities and choices**

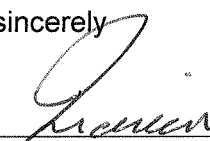
I think the Government can better help carers by ...

Recognising the amount of support parents/families  
contribute to the care of individuals. We are  
the unseen work force OT's, PT's, ~~and~~ nursing  
financial advisors. Support for carers  
needs to be practical. Carers are often in crisis  
themselves.

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



Signature

Marion

Print your name

2/7/08

Date

Q2. Expanding the criteria's for the carers pension of \$45 per week is essential.

We are often required to take time away from work to attend appointments, hospital visits. Provide care when the person needs to be cared for at home, this amount however still contributes towards drug, post costs, etc. It seems quite petty to discontinue this support if you don't meet one of the requirements but are involved in a large amount of unseen care.

Q4. Support for carers is essential because we carry a large percentage of the work load that would otherwise fall onto what ever Mental Health services we have. Without our involvement services would be even further stretched & tendered.