

ACC 1817105

From: Ken
Sent: Friday, 4 July 2008 1:27 PM
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing & Youth

Submission No. 948
(Inq into better support for carers)

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing & Youth
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

I wish to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community & Youth's Enquiry into Better Support for Carers.

Over the past six months the cost of medications alone is \$469.00 which does not include toiletries, nappies or special clothing. The cost of heating, access to medical staff, public transport requirements, petrol, food, rates and taxes has all increased and is going to increase further. These concerns are not being met by the meagre Old Age Pension. I feel that there is a level of disregard by the Government and that we are being left to our own devices. We have paid taxes, obeyed the law and defended our country over the years without any acknowledgement, let alone thanks. On a personal level, we have both contributed at Community level through voluntary organisations, i.e. SLSC - 35 year membership, so we feel that we have done our fair share of contributing to the community. A little appreciation would go a long way to easing our suffering.

I feel my role as a carer is taken for granted because I am looking after my husband who suffers from Alzheimer's and we know he will progressively become worse. I have looked after him for three and a half years so far. As we are both in our seventies we are not able to work or socialise because of his illness. My husband has become more withdrawn over time and now does not wish to socialise at all, which restricts my ability to meet and mix with others in a similar situation.

I worry about our future because we don't know what is ahead of us and the cost of all the extras that my husband requires, ie medications, toileting items and special dietary needs.

I do have respite care 2 hours a week and shall try to increase that soon, but really don't know what else I can do, or how I'm actually going to afford to pay for the extra hours respite.

I am happy to meet with you to discuss my situation further, at which point I will be able to furnish you with all our expenses and ancillary costs.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Elizabeth