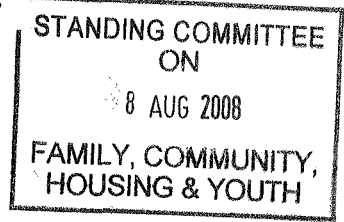


MC 2/8/08

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



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...

I believe the role of carers is generally undervalued by society. The emotional + financial burdens of providing care are also underrecognised.

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...

My son has Autism Spectrum disorder

I see my role as providing support + advocacy for my teenage son particularly during transition from primary to high school and hopefully eventually into the workplace. Also support for my other children in dealing with their siblings.

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 ...

The barriers faced are largely those related to stigma of the unknown. My son has been called 'bad + mad' he is neither. Advocating for him to be accepted for who he is has been difficult and finding people with relevant experience who can work with my son productively.

More information is attached on a separate sheet

Financially the barriers relate to providing assistive devices ie laptop computer etc, to better enable his learning.

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

- Respite - particularly for teenagers + adults.
There are several services for children but not
teenagers + adults

Accessing specialist services - particularly in the
rural area I come from: Albany/Wodonga

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 ...

continuation of the bonus payment scheme for
carers.

Encourage/support initiatives to provide
specialist medical/psychological/allied health
care in rural areas

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

Helen

Print your name

24/6/08

Date