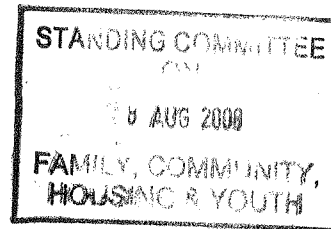


Submission No. 1257

(Inq into better support for carers)

MC
2/16/08



August 1st 2008

Wendy

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.

As a Carer, I feel that my role isIsolating

I face the following problems ...

I do not talk to anyone about it because nothing can be done,

We cannot go on holidays,there is no money,it is all used up on Morgage,medication,normal household bills ...4 walls, is like being in your own tomb.The only outing is shopping days ,wich I dread because there isn't enough money to go around.

MY husband is not classed as needing a carer but he has balance problems, caused by ? the doctorers are thinking "Meneriers Disease",they are treating him for it but have not tested him for it ?

I help him at night when he falls on his way to the toilet,I make sure he stays in bed every morning until 9 am, giving him coffee ,breakfast in bed tv in the bedroom is on from 7:30 am until 9am.So I get my house work done,It is like having a child again,and I am walking on eggshells most of the time,so I won't make him feel like he is an imposition.

He does as much as he can around the home ,but the problem he has,does not allow him to do it all at the same time ,eg. yesterday he tried to rake the leaves around th trees, he would normally do it in a half hour,it took him three and a half hours,because he couldn't stand too long.

He can drive a car without a problem, but mobility is becoming a problem around the home.He is seventy two this year,he was a hard working man,a house painter,worked with noisy machinery with no ear protection.He has recently got hearing aids wich is a blessing for me,on top of this demanding lifestyle it was so hard not to get angry when I was tired, and had to keep repeating myself loudly.I never liked shouting.

He has continued to go to the lawn bowls and the men are very good,if he falls they help him,72 years old, he shouldn't be like this until he is 90 years of age.We were not prepared for this. I am 57 years old,yes 15 years difference,second marriage for us both.Has no relevance to this request. He has been like this for two years now.No one has ever shown an interest,in what is going on here because I am not in the system as carer.So I am letting you

know there is another branch here as carers, I also am on call for my mum, and the phone rings any time day or night when she needs help, from getting a cramp at night and can't get to the toilet to being scared of noises outside, to needing an ambulance at night, but I am not recognised as a carer because both my charges are not disabled enough according to the books. I am not complaining, I love them both, and they are family and I care very much about their quality of life.

To care for anyone with a disability, is hard work mentally and physically, especially when I can not show documentation that there is a physical problem. I love my husband, and the doctors do what they can, but they will not help him, we have a saying in our home, "If I were rich or a famous person, we would not be in this situation, we are not important" !, we have to struggle to get any help... When you have been where we are, in the social structure, you learn your place on the social ladder, and expect nothing.

I need help with getting away, on a real holiday, all expenses paid, relaxation, so I can find my own identity and be a better person. Not without my charge I need him with me or I would fret and worry that he wasn't being cared for properly. I need an "interest free loan" so we can see it is paid off and live free of debt, currently we are only paying the interest and getting no where, \$169.29 a month is too much out of our pension and we can see ourselves losing our home as interest rates rise. Where will we go, what can we do?

I think the Government can better help Carers by providing everyone with the same medical help and support they need. There should be a register of carers, whether they get paid as carers or just care for the invalid or aged and incapacitated, quite often we hear about circumstances where a person has missed out on help because they do not meet the set criteria. It is very unfair, it has to be a lot more flexible to cater for "ALL" carers. After all If it was not for a lot of us, the government would be out of pocket, so why not give us some back? I would love the \$25,000.00 debt wiped off of our home, that extra \$169.29 would come in mighty handy a month.

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

[Sign your name here]

Wendy