

SUNDAY 8th JUNE '08

Submission No. 155

(Inq into better support for carers)

A.O.C 25/6/08

Dear Secretary,

I wish to make a submission into better support for carers.

My work as a carer for my elderly husband (83) involves high care as he is unable to move without much effort he is on oxygen 24hrs with a lung complaint, as I am unable to access thru medical aids a cylinder oxygen supply he can only leave home by ambulance so I'm unable to have respite & with a 4 bedroom home & garden to tend my life is spent working till I drop if I'm unwell I have to get up & work thru it

HACC is my one guardian angel every 2 weeks they come & vacuum & mop floors & take me to the shops for food.

I also use the Council ²² cab on a Thursday which picks me up & home again, so I can get the necessities paid pay bills & collect medications & dressings for my husband.

Twice a week I pay £7.00 to replace his catheter (every 6 weeks) & dress his skin, which is like tissue paper due to medication & sitting.

It's not possible to take my husband to the doctor & we rely on metro cab after hours when we need emergency treatment although I believe this is being cut so I don't know what I'll do.

Ambulances are in short supply & you have to wait sometimes many hours to get home from hospital simply because they have oxygen, we have no other transport, an oxygen cylinder would be a God send especially when we have a power cut like happened this last week.

I get among tracheas - then the part bit getting the help is another hurdle

I'm thinking seriously of my husband
of 59 yrs going into a nursing home but
it's such a drawn out business & how
I will cope financially worries me, I've
got to contact Centrelink & maybe
they will be able to help otherwise I'll
have to struggle on I mean struggle
I've looked at my husband was
full time for the last 5yrs & I'm
feeling very lost & worried about
what's ahead, both health wise & moneywise
everything is expensive so you tend
to cut down & should I say bad.

Thank you for taking my views & life
into consideration & I look forward to
hearing of any outcomes for advice.

Sincerely

DAPHNE