

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. 344
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 1/7/08

STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
25 JUN. 2008
FAMILY, COMMUNITY,
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...

I AM AN 80 YEAR OLD SELF FUNDED RETIREE AND A FULL TIME CARER TO MY 80 YEAR OLD WIFE WHO HAS A NUMBER OF CHRONIC CONDITIONS INCLUDING LOSS OF SPEECH. SHE IS CONFINED TO BED AND A WHEELCHAIR AND IS TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON MYSELF FOR ALL ASPECTS OF HER EXISTENCE.

HEAT APPROVED A CAPS PACKAGE 16.11.06 WHICH WAS PROVIDED 7.5.07 AN EALTH PACKAGE WAS APPROVED 31.10.07 AND WILL BE PROVIDED FROM 1.7.08

WE ARE CURRENTLY IN RECEIPT OF A CARERS ALLOWANCE TOTALLING \$100.66 MONTHLY

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 PROVIDE TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY AND WHILE STILL ABLE A CARING, STABLE, LOVING AND SAFE HOME ENVIRONMENT TO MY WIFE IN THE TWILIGHT OF HER LIFE.

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 ...

I FIND THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DEMANDS OF CARING 24 HOURS EVERY DAY VERY STRESSFUL AND ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT WHICH ARE ALWAYS DISTURBED. I AM VERY AWARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY I HAVE FOR MY WIFE'S WELLBEING AND THIS IS A MAJOR WORRY.

OUTSIDE CONTACT/SOCIALISATION HAS BECOME VERY DIFFICULT WITH LACK OF MOBILITY AND COMMUNICATION MAJOR INFLUENCING FACTORS.

WE HAVE BECOME PRISONERS IN OUR OWN HOUSE

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

1. MORE PHYSICAL ASSISTANCE / CONTACT.
2. HOME VISITATIONS BY AGED CARE PROFESSIONALS
I.E. SOCIAL WORKERS, NURSES
3. STAYING FIT & HEALTHY ENOUGH TO CONTINUE
MY CARING DUTIES.

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 ...

1. INCREASING THE NUMBER & PROVISIONS OF "CAPS" & "EACH" PACKAGES
2. REDUCING THE DELAY BETWEEN ACAT APPROVALS AND THE
PROVISION OF PACKAGES BY AGED CARE PROVIDERS
3. INCREASING THE NUMBER OF "HIGH CARE" RESPIRE PLACES.
4. ELIMINATING THE NEED TO PAY FULL PRICE FOR THE
PROVISION OF STATE AGED CARE SERVICES WHEN A
COMMONWEALTH FUNDED CAPS/EACH PACKAGE IS PROVIDED.
THIS TENDS TO LESSEN THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL CONTACT.

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

DONALD

Print your name

21.6.08

Date