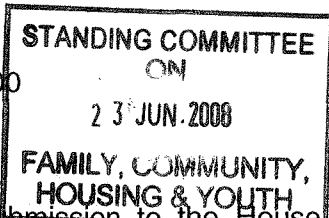


Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission No. 419
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 2/7/08



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...

As a carer of a child with a disability, I can see a life-time of care ahead of me.

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...

unlike a parent of a "normal" child, I provide 24 hour care, I am my child's teacher, nurse, therapist, friend and play-mate.

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 ...

- social isolation as children/people with disabilities behaviours do not meet society's norms so they (and parents) are ostracised.
- added expense of on-going medication, therapy, counselling (for myself and my child)

More information is attached on a separate sheet

3. The practical measures required to better support carers

As a carer, I need help with ...

- Access to family based respite care
Include siblings so child with a disability isn't further removed from family activities)
- Rebates for families/parents (not just child) with health-care card.

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 ...

- Acknowledging financial impact of having a family member with a disability and offer discounts/rebates to the bill payer.
- Offer family based respite care
- Take a holistic approach to funding.

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

Pamela

Print your name

18/06/08

Date