

STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
27 JUN. 2008
FAMILY, COMMUNITY,
HOUSING & YOUTH

Submission No. 510
(Inq into better support for carers)
A.O.C. 7/7/08

21.6.08

Committee Secretary,
Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth,
P.O. Box 6021
House of Representatives
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA.

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 is one of support, to keep my mentally ill son out of hospital and to diagnose any deterioration of his condition and to check on his medication.

I face the following problems:-

1. Old age and deterioration of my health.
2. Dealing with my son's illness
3. Giving financial help.
4. Coping with abuse when he is psychotic
5. Until recently I was doing his cleaning. I gave it up because of my health.

I need help with:-

Finances. I pay his dental bills, supply domestic appliances when necessary. I pay \$50 a month to a drop in centre for his meals as he often goes without food because his pension does not last 2 weeks.

In doing so I know that he has one good meal a day. I pay out of my pension.

I pay out when he breaks a lease or agreement with an estate agent. This can be quite an amount I help him pay bonds and at times it is hard to get refunds I need to get respite because of stress and worry

I think the Government can better help carers by:-

- ① Providing more case managers who visit regularly.
- ② Providing more accommodation ie bed sitters or cluster homes similar to those provided to the aged.
- ③ Providing more drop in centres so that the mentally ill can socialise and not sit at home depressed.
- ④ Providing a cleaner ie monthly as mentally ill people cannot cope due to medication and hearing voices.
- ⑤ Provide financial support for Carers, especially pensioners.
- ⑥ Provide more respite.
- ⑦ Provide guidelines to Estate agents who accept leases from obviously mentally ill people then threaten to sue them when they break the lease. There should be some protection for carers in such situations.
- ⑧ Extend drug rehabilitation. At present Psychiatrists rarely suggest this to their clients.

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

Wilma

Inquiry into Better Support for Carers

House of Representatives Standing
Committee on Family, Community,
Housing and Youth.