

"Outdated Welfare System Hits Carers"

Mary Lou Carter of Carers Alliance hits the Minister and advises the Media of a log of claims which is very apt in light of the "Carer's Payment" being a payment which denotes remuneration for work done -- not a pension which denotes a passive welfare benefit.

Media Report & Release :

http://www.lisainc.com.au/userfiles/file/Outdated%20Wefare%20System%20Hits%20Carers%2016_5_2010.pdf

Mary Lou alerts the Federal Minister for Family Services that the log of claims is certainly decades if not a couple of centuries overdue. Going on to say, "You are very much aware that in Australia the delivery of services and supports to people with severe and dependent disabilities is so abjectly woeful that family-carers are forced to continue to provide the very physically demanding care and support well into their 70s, 80s and yes into their 90s. People with disabilities must have legislated rights and entitlements to service, the UK legislated for this in the late 1970s and family-carers have had rights and entitlements to services legislated in 1995. We are lagging badly and a most recent example of that lag is the introduction into Federal parliament of a Carers Recognition Bill which is simply an embarrassment and should be withdrawn until a strong, rights-and-entitlements-based Bill, similar to that of the UK parliament, is formulated and introduced. Then, Minister, it would be you that gets the pat on the back from carers not the other way around. Australia is a signatory to various conventions such as the UN Convention on Civil and Political Rights, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave trade and institutions and practices similar to Slavery and yet in our midst we have Australians, mostly women, who are under the yoke for decades, relieved only when they are demented, too infirm or ill or when they die".

LISA Comment: Although this is not a LISA specific area, we see families under more and more pressure to care for their family member forever with less and less support, and with little hope for the future but to keep going till they drop.

Those of us lucky enough to have permanent relief from being a direct carer, are working hard to try to ensure group homes, and similar, provide quality of life care not basic minder care, for the benefit of future residents as, and if more facilities become available.

Facility based respite is often used as an avenue to permanent supported accommodation by desperate parents with little hope of getting a permanent group home, or similar, for their adult family member. Places thus taken up, reduce the few breaks carers have.

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