

As a full time carer for my elderly mother I would like to suggest:

*The asset test for Carer Payment be abolished or amended. My mother is now in the palliative care stage of her life and requires full time care. I provide a house, transport, all cooking, cleaning and personal care. I am on hand day and night, 7 days a week. If my mother was in residential palliative care it would cost a good deal more than the \$350 a week Carer Payment allows. But, because my mothers assets are (marginally) above the \$580,000 limit, I am unable to receive Carer Payment. I have no other income and no contributions to superannuation. As a woman in her fifties the likelihood of my gaining employment after I finish caring is minimal. In an effort to leave me some money for income in MY old age, we are now living as cheaply as possible.

- Respite carers should be allowed to administer drugs. I am unable to receive home respite care as my mother has episodes of sudden severe shortness of breath and needs to be immediately given, amongst other medications, liquid morphine. Only registered nurses are allowed to administer these drugs and registered nurses do not do respite care. Ironically, I have been encouraged to have respite care to come in and clean the house, do the ironing, shower my mother etc. These carers would be paid by the government some \$20 an hour for work that I do and am not paid for.

Name Withheld
31 January 2011