



MAUREEN BROWN SA FAMILY CARER WINNER (DUAL WINNER WITH PAT AND KEITH SUTTON)

Maureen has been caring for her son Scott for the past 16 years. Now 43, Scott has a severe acquired brain injury as a result of being assaulted and Maureen has had full responsibility for his ongoing welfare as an adult.

Unable to live with her son due to his challenging behaviour, Maureen travels to his home every day to care for him and support him to run his household.

While her son goes to a workshop two days a week where he helps out with gardening, he can't cope with a full time routine, not handle money, nor process information adequately to live independently.

As the mother of 2 other adult children, 70 year old Maureen takes responsibility for her son's domestic chores, paying bills, banking, shopping, taking him out to appointments and coordinating his daily needs while also continuing to run her own household.

Maureen says she is simply giving him life every day and she doesn't know how he would cope otherwise. She has developed her understanding of the effects of brain injury, spoken at public meetings and supported others. Maureen says she truly understands that being a carer can be very isolating.

Maureen has a very strong Christian faith and love for her family that keeps her going each day. Her involvement in being a carer is constant and demanding. At times the daily challenges she faces in supporting her son are immense.

Over the years, Maureen has determinedly fought government and non-government agencies for services that should be provided to support her son. She liaised with the public trustee and another agency to provide Scott with a new home and a car to transport him in.

The person who nominated Maureen said she's the type of person who would do anything for anyone and especially for her children and the massive commitment she has made should be recognised.

She is unable to go on a holiday or travel away for more than one or two nights because of her caring responsibilities. With the extent of his injury, Scott is unable to see what his mother does for him, but life would be very different for him without the care of his mother

Where possible, Maureen attends carer's functions when she is well enough to do so, to give herself some social life and to share with others. She has touched so many people with her story and inspires other carers that are currently going through similar challenges.

Maureen lights up a room as soon as she walks in and she is such a happy person despite the traumatic life she has had and the ongoing emotional and practical challenges of providing long term care.