

To whom it may concern;

The proposed amendments to the Social Security & Other Legislation (Income Support for Students) Bill 2009 were discussed at length at our meeting Wednesday 14 October 2009.

The Albany YAC is in support of all of the proposed amendments ***except the amendment to which stops young people from gaining independence through part time work or wages.***

The YAC felt that while the other proposed amendments will make life easier and less stressful for regional students to attend tertiary study away from their home & families, the amendments will make no difference if they cannot gain 'independence' through working for a lump sum figure.

As discussed in our previous statement for many of our members the ability to gain 'independence' and receive full youth allowance is the difference between whether they pursue further tertiary study or not. Discussions with their fellow students have illustrated that this is the case for the majority of students at Albany high schools so this will negatively impact on career decisions in the future for young people in this area.

Therefore the YAC feel that without changing the requirements for students gaining independence the amendments to the bill will not increase the number of students accessing tertiary education and will make life just as difficult, if not more difficult for students from regional areas to pursue tertiary study in the area of their choosing.

Should you have any questions or require further from the Albany Youth Advisory Council regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on 9841 9294 or by return email.

Kind regards

Tammy Flett
Community Development Officer - Youth
City of Albany