

Dear Committee Secretary,

I write to express my deep concern regarding the inequities faced by Country families in terms of the Independent Youth Allowance.

Tell me how a young person on casual employment can be guaranteed 30 hours/week?

We live in Bunbury – 2 hours from Perth – and I feel discriminated against as my two sons live in this so-called “Inner Regional” area and will have to work 30 hours per week for 18 months, whereas closer to Perth in a neighbouring town, their friends needs only to earn \$19,500 over 12months.

Both go to the same school and both have to live away from home to study in Perth.

This will mean our boys will need to take a two year gap, and I fear they may not get back to studies after their time off.

Country parents, who earn just a little too much, must also support all living away from home expenses for their children, whilst Perth families can have their children live at home with them.

I urge you to have a fairer system for country families, which should be supporting country students and their families, not disadvantaging them.

Kind regards,

Amanda Whittle