

Dear Sir/ Madam

I would like to make a complaint about the Centrelink rules regarding Youth Allowance assistance.

I have applied on at least 6 occasions to get Youth Allowance, I am a full time student studying a Bachelor of Human Services and The University of the Sunshine Coast in my second year. I have been turned down numerous times. The last time I applied and got turned down by Centrelink in October i was told that the only way i will be classed as independent is to have a baby or work 30 hours a week. As a student it is unrealistic and not possible for me to work 30 hours a week. I do work approx 15-20 hours a week just to support myself and attend uni, I struggle to support myself on a weekly basis and working maximum hours affects my uni results. I have been told by the uni, "work any more than 15 hours and you are likely to fail. I cannot even apply for rent assistance because the current rules prevent me from becoming independent. My Parents help me out as much as possible and struggle themselves to help, but how can I study and support myself without any assistance. The new rules which were affective in July 2010 are unfair and do not support students to help achieve their goals.

Rebecca Ramm