

To whom it may concern,

This is a response to the inquiry into the Social Security Amendment (Income Support for Regional Students) Bill 2010

I have been in the Australian education system since I was 5 years old. I completed primary school in 2005, and secondary school this year, in 2010.

This was a long time to be learning the curriculum put forward by education experts, but I, like many, have completed my formal education to its entirety, I will no longer be going to my once preferred tertiary education provider of Melbourne University. The reason for this is simple- I cannot afford it.

The Youth Allowance system in Australia is nothing short of abysmal. Forcing regional Australians to work for 18 months, and earn \$19,532 is simply ruining the futures of many young Australians, especially as most universities would not permit a deference of more than 12 months from a tertiary course. In all honesty, the main effect of this procedure; from my perspective; is to encourage school-leavers to give up their dreams, and just get a job. I am sure to look forward to my future, where I and many others get to work long hours in jobs we never wanted, and maybe, just maybe, we might make it to university in our 30's or 40's when we can afford it, if we haven't discarded our dreams by then.

Such backwards policies lead to countries of the uneducated, advancing slower than any other. And those who get youth allowance don't always need it. I know of at least one person who receives approximately \$440 a fortnight, who has not attended university for 6 months, and rarely went before that, who has not completed a single exam. But rest assured, this person will continue to receive their youth allowance checks in the mail, while I get a job at a fast food restaurant, and my dreams, ambitions and intellect inevitably decay.

Youth Allowance must be changed

Sincerely, Lachlan Ray.