

## **Submission to the Senate regarding changes to Youth Allowance affecting inner regional students**

I have just finished my first year of tertiary study, having relocated from an inner regional area to Sydney in order to do so. I receive Youth Allowance, but also have a casual job, and work as hard as I can to try and support myself through my tertiary studies.

I consider myself lucky that I am able to study at all, and it is not easy.

It could be due to the fact that I am not a very politically active person, but I am at a total loss when it comes to understanding why potential tertiary students from inner regional areas should be marginalised by our own government. I am studying secondary education, because I know how important education can be in turning around not only individual lives, but allowing communities to reach their full potential, improve our nation's economy, and ultimately, allow Australian citizens to feel secure. Denying a group of young people the possibility of tertiary education based on where they come from amounts to destroying an important part of our nation's potential future, and is discriminatory to boot.

There are already problems with a lack of nurses, teachers, doctors, and other professionals willing to work in these areas; why not encourage the young people from these areas to fill those gaps? I for one will one day be returning to my home town to improve the standards of education there, and I want my future students to be able to study at a tertiary level.

If you fail to support this demographic, do not be surprised when regional areas experience worse shortages in professional labour. You didn't give them a chance.