

Independence Youth Allowance

I am absolutely bewildered and angry that our government is openly discriminating against educating children from inner rural areas of Australia. Why are they not able to have the same choice of studying at the university of their choice that their city counterparts do? We live 3.5 hours away from Bathurst where my son has been accepted. This distance is too great to travel each day so he has to live away from home. Knowing that there were major changes to the Independent Youth Allowance my son has taken this year away from his studies to work, however as the Government has decreed that it must be 18 months and he only began to work in November 2009, my son will have to find a job and work a minimum of 30 hours per week for the first two to three months of his university course. How is he to do this?

In the last two months he has paid for and completed the following certificate courses to give himself as many qualifications as possible to enable him to gain work (in as many areas as possible) as soon as he arrives in Bathurst. He has done these courses (which have cost him well over \$1,000.00) whilst holding down two jobs in hospitality working for over 45 hours per week. He needs to do this to earn the money for his accommodation at University because we are financially unable to do so.

1. RSA – Responsible Service of Alcohol – to allow him to work anywhere alcohol is served.
2. A Barrista course.
3. St. John's Ambulance certificate
4. Bronza Life Saving Certificate
5. Senior First aid Certificate
6. Life Guard Certificate.

He is booked to do the Oz Swim course in January so that he can teach swimming.

To re-iterate, my son is holding down two jobs and is constantly improving his qualifications so as to truly become independent.

I would have thought that children like this are the way forward for Australia. That our Government would be proud to support them in their endeavours of further educating themselves to becoming healthy tax paying individuals. Please see the need and agree to returning to the one year of full time work criteria to enable Australia to have a greater number of educated individuals from all walks of life, who will, in time, return and support the country areas from which they came.