

Hi,

As a 2010 school leaver taking a gap year I originally planned to achieve the '18,000 over one year ' youth allowance scheme. With the current changed system this is not possible due to my area being concluded 'inner regional' and the lack of full time work available.

The town I'm living in is Busselton, 3 hours from Perth, and the work here is seasonal. My concern for this new Youth Allowance is shared by much of the parents and sons in the scotch college boarding community that i attended, due to many of them living nearby 'outer regional' areas but nonetheless experiencing the remoteness that an 'outer regional' area offers relative to work availability.

It has come to my attention that the whole change to the youth allowance scheme is a contradiction in itself. For one, only one university (Murdoch) in W.A. allows a student to defer for more than 1 year. Therefore by completing the current youth allowance scheme the student not only loses their given position that they applied for but also is effectively out of sync of university. The fact that I could enter physiotherapy this year and not the next (if the TER required changes) has left me with a blurry future.

Furthermore I cannot comprehend the fact that if my family moved out to our farm house 20km's out of town we could be deemed 'outer regional'. How can one side of the line make the difference between a stress free tertiary education, with little financial worries and allowance to focus on my studies, and a juggling act between a job and a full time physiotherapy course.

What surprised me more, as an avid labor and green supporter, was our local Liberal MP Nola Marino and her continual pressure and attempts to change this legislation. If the Liberals, known by some as the ultimate 'economic managers', support the previous youth allowance scheme then undoubtedly it suggests the need for less strict guidelines for youth allowance.

As a representative of Australia's future generation Youth Allowance needs to be changed. How can we "move forward" if the up and coming driving force of Australia, today's younger generation, is being slapped straight back in the face by the government.

I sincerely hope my email can cause the government to reconsider Youth Allowance and return it to a form that is achievable by the youth in which it was originally designed for.

Best regards,

Bradley Weir
Leaver 2010