

Hello

To whoever will listen,

I am writing because I am very concerned that my daughter who graduated in 2009 has her opportunity to attend University diminished owing to the current legislation.

As a single parent with a good job I took a mortgage to buy out the family home. Sadly this leaves us with little left over but on paper I earn so much that my daughter will only qualify for about 47 dollars a fortnight allowance. She has been working but because we live in a regional area that will not qualify her for an independent allowance. This means that I will have to try to support her when she moves away to Perth (the course she is enrolled in is only available on site in the city).

As the current situation stands that is going to present us with an extremely difficult financial situation. In reality it marginalises my daughter's chance at being able to attend Uni and be successful without deep concerns and hardship.

These are some of our options at present:

- Don't go to Uni because there is not enough money or support
- sell my home, try to relocate in Perth (so that I don't have to run 2 homes) and hope I can get a job in the city so that my daughter can have the same opportunity to attend Uni as those children who already live in Perth?
- I take on an extra job out of hours to help support her.
- My daughter finds a position in Perth that does not interfere with her study that is well paying enough to cover her expenses but not onerous because she will be setting up in a new city, starting a University course and will still require attendance and study time.
- My daughter only attends Uni part time, (works hard see above also) and struggles to complete her course in double the time (depending on course timetabling maybe more) it takes students who have the luxury of being able to stay in their family home. Statistically students who take too long often fail to complete their course at all!

I believe that all students who must leave home in order to complete further studies are greatly disadvantaged by the current legislation and that it should be changed so that further education is fairly available to all Australian citizens!

Thank You

Susanne Williams