

## **To the senate inquiry on Youth allowance**

### **Regional students disadvantaged by new Independence criteria for youth allowance**

**Please relook at the criteria so that all Australian students have the opportunity to further their education not just city kids!**

**My granddaughter has spent the last year as a gap year to assist her with the costs of going to university in Brisbane. It was not until well after she had deferred that the new criteria were passed through parliament, she had committed to a traineeship and was unable to rescind her deferment of the course she wanted to do. We live in Hervey Bay and the course she wants to do is only offered in major centres such as Brisbane. Her 2 brothers have both been advantaged by the previous independent youth allowance allowing them to meet some of the costs incurred by living in Brisbane.**

**It seems very unfair that because you live in a major centre that you will be more likely to have a tertiary education as regional students can not afford the huge costs associated with renting etc in major centres.**

**As the course does not have mid year intakes this effectively means she will have to take 2 years to meet the requirements for independence - NOT FAIR for regional kids!!!!**