

Submission to Social Security Ammendment (income support for regional students) bill 2010

Dear Committee Chair,

Please accept the following as points for consideration:

1. The hours worked eligibility criteria is virtually impossible to satisfy. It appears the architect of the legislation was unaware of the typical transition from High School to university. A student leaves high school in November , has a gap year, then commences university in the February the following year. The 18 month full time requirement would see the student at full time work during university. It gets worse, hours worked are assessed in blocks, so you can't work 20 hrs per week for a period then 40 hrs per week later to catch up. You must satisfy the criteria in each block of 13 weeks.
This criteria is stupidly impossible.

2. Regional students must be able to compete with city students for all opportunities equally. That is, Regional students must be assisted to attend city universities regardless of whether a university exists in their home town. For example, our daughter Blair attends Newcastle University and studies Visual Communication. She is part of a graphic design "community" which shares experiences, work experience leads, information on city seminars/trade shows etc which infinitely enriches her educational experience. Legislation must not limit regional students to regional opportunities.

3. Our family appears to fall into a no mans land category. We are well under \$150 k income, are of modest means and qualify for no assistance. We are being penalized for past rorting of the system by wealthy families, hopefully none of the perpetrators are now in politics.

4. Simple equation:

Regional students + Youth Allowance = Future Tax Payers

Cheers

Malcolm Howard