

Dear Sir/Madam & Nola Merino,

I would like voice my opinion regarding the new bill about Independent Youth Allowance.

I live with my family in a small town in the South West of Western Australia. I have two sons, one aged 20 and the other 17 and everything we do or have to do, **we have to** travel!

With these new rules for Independent Youth allowance, as we are not low income earners, we still have to travel and we have to find accommodation, which are all extra expenses, compared with city people, that have public transport and students can stay at home and have no extra expenses. How do you justify that?

As Harvey is only a very small town it is very difficult for my son to find a suitable job that would give him 30 hours a week. So he would to travel to Bunbury everyday or even live in Perth to find a suitable job in his interest! That means even more expenses like food, rent, public transport, living expenses. As he does not have a license to drive himself there we would have to travel to Bunbury everyday 4 times!

I know it is easily said, "but you earn enough and that should be no problem for you", when city kids don't have the same expenses. How about giving our country students a break to make it a little easier for them to access the independent youth allowance.

The Government is always encouraging people to move to the country but why should they, when we are disadvantaged for everything!

Because of these new rulings of having to work for 30 hours a week for 18 months, we may as well send our son to University next year as there is no point in trying to find work here in Harvey. ? In the end that does not help us either because we will still be out of pocket twice as much as city kids! Depending on the subject they want to study, there may not be a midyear intake, that means they may not attend University for two years. Who wants to do that?

I have been doing battle for years with my oldest son who has a learning disability, but is not disabled enough, to receive any help at all!

Even as he is an adult now, he has to make his own decisions and I can't help, not even in finding him a job! I have had the hugest expenses with him as there is no help. To me either you have a disability or you don't! Where does the government come from?

Not a happy customer!