

Chelsea Dickins

SA 5290

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Committee Secretary

Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee

Parliament House

ACT 2600

To whom it may concern,

My name is Chelsea Dickins and I have recently finished my high school studies and am taking a gap year next year, before moving away from home in 2012 to study in Chiropractic in Melbourne. I live in Mount Gambier which is classed as 'inner regional' by geographical and social statuses. My location is a mere 100 metres from the city limits of Mount Gambier and I see this as extremely unfair that I am not eligible, however my friend across the road is. Currently, there is a bill that will revert the changes (for inner regional students) to the Youth Allowance that was available for students who completed their studies in 2008. I speak on behalf of my peers and myself that the youth allowance can be the difference for students to be able to study at a tertiary level. Within this bill there are so many contradictions that are seen as excuses change the previous legislation. It is most likely that students who grew up in the country will move back to the country and enrich the communities with their skills. There are so many shortages of medical and professional workers in many regional centres. Providing help to country students in the long term can boost numbers of professional people in country areas. Youth Allowance is a lifeline for students to be able to make it through their university course. While the money that is being paid out benefits the students in the short term, the long term ramifications to country people must outweigh the initial cost. I am aware that many people have been able to cheat the system in the past and this is how much money has been wasted as the money has been used for other reasons than its purpose, however most students who live in 'inner regional' areas and areas of higher geographical disadvantage have to move away from home. This in itself proves independence. If one must live, cook, clean, attend university then this is evidence that the student is independent; many students work on top of this to afford university life. Thank you for your time. Sincerely,
Chelsea Dickins