

I am writing to put my support behind the private Senator's bill, *Social Security Amendment (Income Support for Regional Students) Bill 2010* and wish for it to be included as a submission to a senate Committee inquiry.

Our eldest daughter is at University in her 1st year. Our second daughter has just finished year 12 and is planning to study Law at University. In 2012 our third daughter will be at University and is hoping to study medicine at this point. I have made several inquiries to centrelink about the possibility of some form of assistance - but contrary to all the payments being talked up by the current government such as start up and relocation allowances we don't qualify for even one cent and our combined income is \$133,000, not much when you consider it will have to support 5 adults and 4 homes. But in reality our children have to share the exact same classroom as students that are entitled to the gap year and live 10 minutes away from our home. If that's not discrimination, I don't know what is.

I also teach at a senior high school and witness the unfairness of this situation everyday. I find it hard to comprehend that we live in the so called "lucky country". The students that are unfortunate enough to have a family home in the inner regional zone are being subjected to absolute discrimination and surely in our law system should have some grounds for compensation or at least, protection. I have 5 senior classes with every class on average being made up of half outer regional students and half inner regional students as the school geographic intake ranges from Scotts Head to Grafton and west to Dorrigo. I can't even offer an explanation about this crazy current system that exists.

But, personally I am even feeling discriminated against as parents as a result of being supportive parent and encouraged our children to further education and have been rewarded with children that have determination and the drive to succeed. The current government obviously can turn their back on these kids but as parents with morals and values (as the majority are with focussed kids) we have to do whatever we can considering the blow these good living and focused students have been dealt under the current system.

This has to be rectify ASAP and am urging the senate committee inquiry to act immediately. If the current situation stand I guess our constallation for all will be knowing that the Labour government wont stand a chance of re-election if they are ever hoping for the support of the average Australian (double income with kids) or these students that will go on the be a large portion of the intelligent voters. If they are doubtful maybe they should visit every senior high school in Australia and conduct a survey of popularity. Their offices are a long way from reality.

Tanya Stack