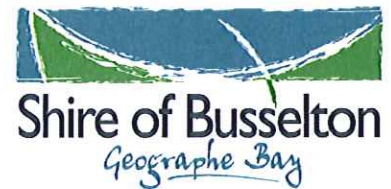




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It is with deep concern that I make this brief but sincere request for a review of the proposed changes to the Youth Allowance qualifying criteria, firstly on behalf of the residents of our Shire and more broadly for like affected regional populations across Australia.

In short, these proposed changes work against all our efforts to maintain and grow regional centres such as Busselton and Dunsborough. Local youth seeking tertiary study opportunities will be required to relocate with their families to centres such as Perth so as to be afforded the opportunity to study, due to the lack of financial assistance on offer through this previously available funding program.

As it was, leaving the family home to study in Perth over 200kms away has always been demanding on local youth, however when you add to this even greater financial stresses in the lead up to their study regimes – study is unlikely to remain a practical, viable option.

We therefore encourage a serious rethink of this proposal. Please heed the cases presented in the numerous individual submissions presented on this subject from our local residents and leave the current qualifying conditions unchanged.

Yours sincerely

ALLAN WHITFIELD'
Manager - Community Development

