

To whom it may concern

I would like to on behalf of my family explain how difficult you have made it for our daughter to attend university in Perth.

She has just finished her Yr 12 exams and has applied for Medicine at UWA. She has met all the criteria required to be accepted into Medicine and we are just waiting on her final results. It has always been planned, that she would take a gap year after school so she could work and earn the required amount to become eligible for Youth Allowance as we have the added expense of approx \$14,000 per year for residential accommodation which we have no choice but to do. We also have expenses such as University fees, books, pocket money, etc., Our daughter will also be working part time once she is at University to help cover every day living costs. Considering she has 7 years at University to complete her degree, it will cost us approx \$100,000 for accomodation alone not including all her other expenses. I know she can apply for HECS so we don't have to pay for her uni fees, but we were hoping to help her out here, so she didn't have such a huge amount to pay at the end of her studies. This looks as though it will now not be possible so you the government will have to carry her debt for a number of years whilst she slowly pays it off over the next 20 years. Surely you would prefer her debt to be paid quicker.

Therefore, the youth allowance would have been of great assistance to our family. We not only have one child, we have another child who is intending to go to University and at this point in time we are wondering how we are going to be able to do this. How can we send one child to university and then turn around and say to the next one, I'm sorry you can't go because all our money is going towards your sisters education??? My husband and I both work full time and are not in a position where we can suddently earn thousands of dollars extra. We are struggling to understand why your government would discriminate against inner rural students so blatantly and what your reasoning is, obviously it isn't one of fairness.

The idea of a 17 year old having to stay away from University for two years is absolutely ludicrous and beyond comprehension. She is unable to defer for 2 years as the University will not allow it and they do not have mid year intakes for Medical students. I thought this country was crying out for more Doctors, apparently you want only urban students as they are the only ones who can afford to go to University!!!!

As I am writing this email, I have just received a phone call from our daughter, to say she has been granted an interview for Medicine, she is so excited and all her hard work over the years has finally paid off. How would you like to be the one who tells her that her dream might not come true due to the Labour government taking away Youth Allowance. If and when I have to have this conversation with her, I would like one of your Ministers to be there so they can see first hand the heartbreak they are causing.

I am not going to sign this letter off with Kind regards or Yours faithfully as quite frankly your government doesn't deserve such pleasantries. Instead I will sign off with simply:

Annette Mateljan