

My concern relates to the students who have to move from an inner regional area to Perth to study and are eligible for Independent YA but are not entitled to the \$4000 relocation scholarship.

As the parent of a student who worked for 18 months after leaving school to qualify for the Independent YA I can tell you that the \$4000 relocation scholarship would have assisted us greatly with the relocation of our son. However, my son was not entitled to this amount. He moved out of home to attend Notre Dame Uni in Fremantle which has no on site accommodation. As a family we had to purchase a unit in Fremantle for him to live in as shared accommodation was difficult to find and then we had to furnish the unit. This all came as an added financial burden to our family and we had to borrow the money to be able to accommodate our son to assist him in achieving his end goal of attending uni in Perth. We now have two mortgages and even though our son receives Independent YA we still have to help him out financially to pay bills etc..

It is unrealistic to expect an inner regional student to catch a train from Bunbury every day to Perth/Fremantle and back and maintain good standing as a full-time student, in addition to working part-time to subsidise their YA. I think that these students are discriminated against and that the criteria should be changed. Independent inner regional students moving away from their home to study in Perth are no different to dependent students, the costs of moving an Independent student are still the same as a dependent!

Our son was not able to attend uni in Bunbury as Edith Cowan University offers limited courses and they did not offer the course which he wanted to do. Does the government think that a student straight out of School and having only worked for 18 months will be financial enough to fund their own relocation costs!? If that is the case they are dreaming. Our son saved most of his earnings in that 18 month period and at the end of his first 12 months at uni has little to show in his bank account because of the cost of living in a city and the expenses related to living out of home.

I therefore would ask that you look at changing the eligibility for inner regional independent YA students to allow them some financial assistance when relocating from their homes to study and that this be fair and equal to that provided to dependent students.