

I write with regard to the increased difficulties which will accrue from the changes to the Youth Allowance policy for young people in regional Australia intending to undertake University courses.

The 18 month employment requirement will in effect mean a doubling of the already burdensome "gap year" of employment for students not within commuting distance of the universities.

It is all very well to promote a "Compact With Youth" which ensures an entitlement to places in education, but such a compact is pointless if the government is then going to enact policies which put obstacles in the way of young people wishing to avail themselves of the opportunity it is intended to provide.