

I have started university this year, 2010 after having had a gap year. Fortunately for me the proposed changes were postponed so they didn't affect students on their gap year at the time. I would have struggled financially as my family are far from wealthy and would therefore not have been able to attend university. I live in Port Macquarie, a supposed inner city region under the new amendments and attend a uni in Sydney.

It is extremely unfair to discriminate against any student who has to travel unreasonable distances for their education. We have to leave home, family and friends which is hard without financial worries as well. I appreciate changes are needed as many independent students are receiving incomes whilst living at home but surely an alternate method could be used e.g based on distances or travelling times.

I am already at uni but I have a brother who has just completed year 12 and a sister not far behind. What will their educational opportunities / choices be like in the not too distant future if regional students remain disadvantaged as they are at present.