

As a Tamworth resident I feel very strongly that our students are going to have their careers jeopardised by the prospect of Tamworth missing out on concessions that allow rural students to qualify for Youth Allowance. There is no local University which means that students need to live out of town to attend University, with often long distances involved in travelling to and from home. The nearest University (Armidale) is over an hour away by car and there are many courses that it does not offer. Incomes in Tamworth are often lower than metropolitan counterparts too, so this places a further burden on parents attempting to support a student who is not living at home. Students in metropolitan areas are often able to live at home while they study.

I believe there are no good grounds for Tamworth students to be ineligible for independent status for Youth Allowance simply because they are in a larger rural town such as Tamworth.

Yours sincerely,
Thea Laurie