

I am sending you this email to let you know how the current criteria for eligibility for Youth Allowance will affect my family

I am the parent of a 16 year old daughter who is wanting to study physiotherapy. We live in Bunbury, a regional centre two hours drive from Perth. As physiotherapy is not offered in the university here in Bunbury, she has no choice but to go to Perth to complete this degree.

Under the current criteria, she is facing the prospect of delaying her entrance into university for two years so that she can be eligible for Youth Allowance.

She is keen to go straight onto university after school, and we will be supporting her to do this, both financially and otherwise.

This will put considerable financial strain on my family, but we are willing to do this to help her achieve her goal.

I cannot understand why students who live in regional areas, and who have to leave their homes to study in Perth, are not automatically eligible for this allowance.

They are already disadvantaged enough, by leaving their family, friends and support systems behind to live by themselves in Perth. The lack of financial support in the form of Youth Allowance only adds to this burden, both for the students and the families.

I urge to review the current criteria, so that regional children are given a fair go!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information

regards  
Denise Lyons