

Thursday, 1 October 2009

Senate Committee
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

Ref: Income Support for Students Bill

Attn: Jeanette Radcliffe – Secretary

Dear Jeanette,

I respectfully request the consideration by the committee of my comments in relation to income support for students.

As a small business owner in regional Australia we have found ourselves in a position where, after providing an education for our children and encouraging them to study and work through school we will, by virtue of the proposed amendments to the Youth Allowance scheme be financially penalised in order to send our children to University in Perth to further their studies.

The basic cost of accommodation for a University student on campus is in excess of \$300 per week, for which we receive no assistance or taxation benefit. As a country student it is difficult enough to assimilate into life in the city and University and it is not desirable for us to have the children working 30 hours per week while trying to study as they have enough to deal with.

To expect a child of 17 to take 18 months away from study in order to earn sufficient money to entitle them to youth allowance seems unreasonable. As you can imagine after 18 months away from study the likelihood of them returning is greatly diminished.

I would expect that by raising children, ensuring they are properly educated and encouraging them to create opportunities for themselves the government would be more supportive of the plight of parents in regional areas where the additional financial burden is quite obvious.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony Emmott