

Proposed Amendants to Youth Allowance:

I would like to see the Youth Allowance amended to cover the city of Mount Gambier as outer rural to assist in eligibility of our children for Youth Allowance.

We are working parents in the City of Mount Gambier who will have a son going to Flinders Uni in Adelaide next year. He has done a gap year this year to try and save a bit of money.

My son is will be doing a degree in Education Maths & Science Senior School. As a country parent we are forced to send our children to the city to complete their degrees. Male teachers are in demand. The financial burden of housing our son at Uni is substantial and I have had a husband who has been out of work due to illness.

The change to the Youth Allowance saw some Year 12 students last year forced to opt out of University as they could not secure Full time employment and without Youth Allowance are unable to afford to attend Uni. Most employment options for these children in Mount Gambier are on a casual basis and with the criteria for Youth Allowance of permanent 30 hours per week for inner rural it is often difficult for them to be eligible.

The impact of the classification of Inner Rural disadvantages the city of Mount Gambier students. It is difficult enough for them to have to relocate and they should have to opportunity to attend University in the City like their City counterparts without the huge financial burden on their parents or themselves, they are our future rural Educators, Doctors , Lawyers etc.