

To whom it may concern

The current criteria for Independent Youth Allowance is making it impossible for some students to attend university.

Every student is equally entitled to a tertiary education whether they live in an 'inner regional' area or 'regional area'.

I have examples of students who live only a kilometre apart but are deemed to be in different areas therefore only one student is eligible for Independent Youth Allowance.

Speaking with people throughout my electorate, I have heard examples of parents having to choose which of their children receives a tertiary education. This is a disgrace.

Students in Dubbo and Mudgee have the same right to Independent Youth Allowance as every other student in my electorate. While Dubbo does have a Charles Sturt University campus, it only has a limited number of courses available. These degrees are well received by students who are interested in those professions, however for a majority of students, CSU Dubbo doesn't offer a viable path for tertiary education.

Students in rural areas simply ask for a fair go and not to be discriminated against because of where they live.

Yours Sincerely

Mark Coulton MP
Federal Member for Parkes