

To whom it may concern,

My name is Vanessa Talbot and I want to go to University.

In response to the Independent Youth allowance I believe the new changes have been extremely unfair and positioned students in rural and regional Australia at a disadvantage.

I am currently living in The Hunter Valley and will be relocating in 2011 to study at UNSW (Sydney).

I find myself very proud and excited to be studying at UNSW in the near future. UNSW was my first preference for University Admissions and I have been motivated to study there for quite some time. However research into the financial burden of University and Relocation has me concerned that my future will be a struggle to keep up with these costs.

Source:

Australian Scholarships group

Updated for 2010

http://apps.asg.com.au/calc/uni_calc.asp?ContainerID=&idp=1

The table above is an estimated calculation of the costs I will face as a University student relocating. Due to my family situation in the year 2011 (\$30,971), I will be supporting myself financially. In motivation that I would qualify for Independent Youth Allowance I took up a full time traineeship. The estimated cost above is almost double of my annual salary as a full time employee.

Is the option to study at a University the student's choice? With the wide range of Universities Australia has to offer, do Students also get to choose where they will Study? These two questions depend on the finances of the Student and the support they get. I can understand why Australia's youth would not consider University in their future. No money, no time, no stability... welcome to University an unachievable dream.

This is only the beginning of our lives and careers the steps we make now are the path to our successful future. The government should be helping us move forward instead we are at a standstill. What happened to Advance Australia?

Regards

Vanessa Talbot