

Dear Sir Madam,

The recent work hour changes to the youth allowance criteria will have an impact on country students which is unfair, unjust and unAustralian.

Why they are being penalised because they live in the country is beyond belief.

I understand some students should not be eligible, but they would mostly be students that live in the city and can live at home and can commute to their chosen university without much impact. I agree some city students will need to be supported due to being unable to live within the family home

How is a country young adult under 18 going to find 30 hours per week for 18 months over a two year period when they are competing with other young adults not planning on going to university who employers will employ long term, mothers returning to the workforce and employers who are rewarded through governments benefits for employing the long term unemployed?

Once they turn 18 any future university student that has been fortunate enough to get employment will most probably be laid off and replaced by someone younger due to employers having to pay an adult wage

Some universities will not defer certain courses for two years which leaves no option for students who cannot afford to support themselves

After two years wait to qualify for youth allowance and a four to five year course, students will be approaching their mid twenties with a huge HECS bill that needs to be repaid and a ticking biological clock. How unfortunate to be a girl!

These changes have made higher education impossible for the majority of students with middle to lower income parents