

Dear Prime Minister, Senator Evans & the Chairman of the Senate Committee

I live with my parents in Bunbury, Western Australia, approximately 2 hours south of Perth. I completed my TEE this time last year, applied to Curtin University in Perth to study Psychology and was accepted. I then deferred my entrance until 2011, undertaking a gap year to earn money to assist in going to university.

The changes to the Youth Allowance has greatly disadvantaged me as I will not be eligible under the new rules. I will not have completed the required hours by the time I commence my course. If I was to defer another year in order to qualify, my TEE score will not count for my entrance into the university and hence would be required to sit a test in order to gain entry. If this is the case, what is the point of sitting the TEE?

My other option would be to try and find a job in the city for a minimum of 30 hours a week; possibly difficult in the current economic climate. This would cause a great deal of distress trying to settle into a new full-time course, re-locating from home, commencing a new job and finding time to study on top of attending the lectures. Also, please note that the university does not offer mid-year intake for this course therefore precluding me from working the full 18 months and commencing my course mid-year.

The course I've chosen to study is not offered in Bunbury, hence the need to re-locate to Perth. Whereas if I was to continue living in Bunbury, at home with my parents, the cost and time that would be necessary to travel to and from Perth would be very inconvenient, not to mention very costly. In this case I would have to work, also very hard considering the circumstances.

The Government's decision to change the eligibility criteria has severely disadvantaged the students and their families from the regional areas. It will impose financial hardship on me and my family having to keep me in Perth with accommodation, food, vehicle running costs, tertiary fees, books etc.

Students whose families already reside in Perth and other capital cities around Australia, are in a far more advantageous position as the student can live at home hence dramatically reducing the cost.

I urge you all to re-consider your decision urgently and assist in the education of the next generations of Australians.

Yours faithfully

Tahnae Keyser

Concerned Future-Student