

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of certain citizens of Australia, draws the attention of the house its opposition to the current changes in Youth Allowance criteria, which will severely disadvantage country students living away from home to study in the following ways.

- Country students can not live at home while they gain qualifications- footing the cost of \$15,000 to \$20,000 to be at university
- Students with no prior experience or qualifications are forced into difficult job market and many will simply not find near full time work for the time and amount required.
- Most universities only allow students to defer for 12 months. Rural students needing youth allowance support through university, may be forced to reapply for their positions all over again as a mature age student. Universities only offer limited mature age places.
- There are limited mid year intake.

We therefore ask the House to review the proposed changes so that country students have the ability to attend university.