



Your full name: Shaun Douglas

This submission is from: a university student

Why are you submitting to the enquiry?: its important for the senate to get as much student feedback as possible, so they can make an informaed decision based on what's actually goin on in society.

How much are your average weekly living costs (or those of a student you know)? How much of this is for accommodation?: average weekly living costs = \$150.
weeekly rent = \$90.

Are the current student income benefits (Austudy, Abstudy and Youth Allowance) adequate?: i am recieveing \$158. from centrelink PER FORNIGHT, this is almost what i spend in one week on food, rent and transport. Also, because it is up to me to get a job and pay the rest of my way, i am constantly stressed about time to get my uni work done, my family is sick of me asking them for money all the time. so, no i dont think they are. we are the next generation of workers for this society, we are studying o that we can be the best we can for our fellow people

What is the impact of the current student income benefits system on students and their families?: okay, my parent (mamma) doesnt mind giving me some money because she knows i work hard and dont get enough to live off from centrelink, but now there is so much more pressure for her to keep working in a full time job until me and my brother have finished uni. my brother is doing a 7 year course.

Is the adequacy of student income benefits connected with the increasing cost of higher education? : its a stupid idea to increase the cost of higher education when the people who are paying to through, the students are the ones who will be working for society when they finish their course, why make it harder aND MORE STRESSFUL FOR THEM? A LOT OF KIDS DON'T EVEN ATTEMPT TO GO TO UNI BECAUSE OF THE COSTS, others drop out through their course because they cant afford it any more. it shouldnt be about money, university is a place where students should feel free to broaden their knowledge and perspectives to be a part of an evolving society, we shouldnt be stressing out about how we will pay for our next meal, or passing the next assessment cause if we dont centrelink wont pay us to study anymore.

How much do students you know work to supplement their study benefits? How does this impact on them, their family and their studies?: i work to help pay the bills and it is really hard. especcially around exam time, i feel good about working, but it puts a lot of pressure on me to work cause i know if i dont take the next shift i might not be able to pay for food for the next few days. a few of my mates dont work and they have very little

money do do anything socially. studying is a part of life and if we cant afford to get out and experience life, then how can we learn to benefit society?

Are student income benefits an important way to ensure access to education?:
DEFINATLY!!! i would not be here if it wasnt for studetn income benefits! who copuld afford to pay for their education without governmnet assisstance? the upper class, thats who.

Are student income benefits an important way of achieving fairer access to education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds?: i think this is definatly the case, yes.