

Your full name: Dabby Violet Anderson



This submission is from: a high school student

Why are you submitting to the enquiry?: I find it appalling that centrelink doesn't give more benefits to homeless youth that are still studying!

How much are your average weekly living costs (or those of a student you know)? How much of this is for accommodation?: I get paid \$340 a fortnight \$175 goes to rent a fortnight plus \$25 to a compulsory savings account I only live on \$140 a fortnight

Are the current student income benefits (Austudy, Abstudy and Youth Allowance) adequate?: I get Living away from home allowance (unreasonable to live at home). I find it that the amount im getting is not enough!

How does the 'age of independence' impact on the adequacy of student income benefits?: I find that they discriminate on how old the student is when they apply for youth allowance. They think that we are going to spend it on crap but in my situation i have to save and budget all my money.

How does the 'parental income test threshold' impact on the appropriateness of student income benefits?: I don't know my mum was on the single parents pension. But friends have told me that they are not entitled to youth allowance because their parents earn too much!

How does the unavailability of rent assistance for Austudy recipients affect the overall adequacy of Government student income benefits?: They won't have enough money to pay rent, pay bills, buy food and the essentials.

Are student income benefits an important way of achieving fairer access to education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds?: No it is still not enough to pay school fees and live off!

Any alternative student income support measures that the Australian Government should consider?: If they are homeless and have no family support! Any other comments?: Students need to be paid more, or students who are homeless get more benefits!