

Dear Members of the Senate,

I am from Tamworth in NSW,

My name is Katie Lillyman and I am currently completing a Gap year, working two jobs trying to earn \$19500 to qualify for Independent Youth Allowance (under the current scheme). I work every opportunity I get because I really need IYA to make it possible to go to university. I currently have a deferred place in International Studies course at UNSW but will lose my place if I defer another year (as I would be required to do under the proposed changes to IYA). It really is like a 'Catch 22' - in order to go to uni I need IYA, but now it may be that the only way to qualify for IYA is to defer again and lose my place at university. If the proposed changes are passed I will have worked my heart out for the last 6 months for nothing and will seriously have to reconsider my options and whether I even go to university. Please, if the government decides that the IYA eligibility criteria must be updated, please vote to phase in the changes so that students like me, who have planned their Gap years and futures in good faith that the government will be there to assist them achieve their dreams, will not be adversely affected.

Kind Regards,

Katie Lillyman,
2009 Gap Student
NSW