

3 July, 2009.

Inquiry into Rural and Regional Access to Secondary and Tertiary Education Opportunities

Re: **Submission by Cameron Reid.**

I state my objection to any reduction in government support for rural students attempting tertiary education.

Rural students choosing tertiary education mostly need to attend city universities as the range of subjects available at country universities is restricted.

Rural students have the expenses of living away from home. City students do not have these expenses. There is an identified need to support country students attempting university education.

The proposed reduction in government support will reduce the opportunity to for rural students to gain tertiary qualifications. An example of this is my son who completed year 12 in 2008, gained a university place in a Melbourne university, deferred for 12 months and commenced work. By the end of the year he will have qualified under the "old" Youth Allowance Scheme by earning enough money. If the "new" scheme is introduced, he will not be able to attend university.

Unfortunately deferral from university places is only available for 12 months, not the 18 months proposed under the new scheme. It seems pretty odd to me that someone should propose that young people need to work for 18 months before they can receive some support to further themselves when the universities only hold places open for 12 months.

If young country people are further restricted from education opportunities, only children of the rich and city people will end up with degrees and further qualifications. It appears that the future for country kids is to perform unskilled labour and perhaps TAFE qualified work such as hospitality.

The proposed "new" scheme will serve to reduce education opportunities for country people.

I am happy to be contacted if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

Cameron Reid