

Friday, 3 July 2009

To whom it may concern; I am very concerned regarding the proposed changes to Youth Allowance as I feel it impacts unfairly on rural youth and the future of our nation.

My daughter is currently in Year 12 and plans to study pharmacy at either Melbourne or Sydney University; she has the marks to do this but the finances to back her up are lacking. To live in a college in Melbourne it costs about \$23000 per year and then on top of this are text books and other living expenses; our family income is \$89 000 and under the new scheme we will receive nothing. A quarter of our income will be paying to keep her in accommodation & food and we also help supplement our older child who is studying university in Melbourne. He worked for 14 months after year 12 and has recently qualified for youth allowance and with part time work he still finds it difficult to survive as a country student in the city.

These students will pay through taxes and hopefully bring their skills back to regional Victoria if they are supported and given a chance. It seems very unfair that these country kids who are children of Mr & Mrs Middle income earners are to be so disadvantaged when they are the future and give back many times more in the future through skills and taxes.