

22 July 2009

The Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and
Regional Affairs and Transport
P O Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Sir/Madam

Independent Youth Allowance Eligibility – Budget 2009

I would like to state my objection to the change that the Federal Government has proposed for the Independent Youth Allowance to come into effect from January 2010.

I would also like to state that it is very unfair on the Government to “change the rules” on last years 2008 HSC recipients half way through their “gap” year. It is very unfair to expect country youth to be able to work an average of 30 hours per week in their home towns – the work is not available.

My daughter, Roshien was planning to commence her University Studies at Townsville this year however as we already have 2 other daughters attending University and the uncertainty of my job, she was forced to defer.

Roshien, completed her HSC in 2008 and has been working 2 part- time jobs since she finished school in November 2008 however her average hours will not meet the new criteria of 30 hours per week. Roshien is hoping to have earned \$19,532 by the time she starts university in February 2010.

I urge the Government to reconsider this change as it will affect a lot of young people attending university. We should all be encouraging our young people to complete year 12 and go to university if they have the capabilities.

Yours faithfully


Glenys Butcher

Cc Luke Hartsuyker MP