



Dear Committee,

At the outset let me advise that I have never made a submission of any kind previously. The typical "country cousin" who takes what is dished out. Not this time!

Might I also state at the outset that my son will be supported, and we will see that he attends university despite the cruel proposals put by the Government in relation to the Youth Allowance. We are fortunate that through both myself and my wife working we are in a position to ensure our sons future is advanced, and he attends the course of his choice after a one year deferral.

The cruel reality is that many good, hard working, and capable students won't go onto University as consequence of the proposed changes. These are the very people that want to get qualifications and return home as Doctors, accountants, nurses etc. Rural communities can't entice qualified people back to the country —

What hope will they have now?

Blind Freddie Kevin must see that to defer from your tertiary course for two years will undoubtedly result in "quality kids" not pursuing their dream. Blind Freddie Kevin must be able to differentiate between a city child who has the option of, and undoubtedly does stay at home and pursue his qualification.

My son's case is as follows:

He completed year 12 and obtained the more necessary to pursue his dream — a Law Degree. There is no law course offered at Lake Tyers Beach so he enrolled in the nearest at La Trobe University, Melbourne. As it is 370 kms away he declined our offer of coming home each evening! Being self motivated he set about to ease the burden on his parents. He commenced work as a barman in Lakes Entrance prior to Xmas. He also worked at Sporties, the local sports store. His day started at work at 9am at the sports store, finished at 5pm and re-commenced at the hotel at 5.30pm till anytime up to 3.30am. As he didn't have a licence dear old dad did the driving to and from work. He worked relentlessly under the reasonable assumption that he would qualify for the youth allowance. He still requires to learn a few more

dollars to fully satisfy the requirement. He will satisfy these outstanding requirements when he returns from Tanzania on 23rd December 09. In the meantime he will have spent 9 months as a volunteer at an orphanage in Tanzania - fully funded by himself.

All his energies have been expended with the full confidence that the rules as operational then, will qualify him for the Youth Allowance. A retrospective "kick in the guts" he did not contemplate.

We have supported our other children, and will support him, regardless of the outcome, but I fear for those other students not so fortunate.

I am wise enough to know that the inquiry will assess this letter against the terms of reference and possibly disqualify it for not specifically addressing these terms. I am also wise enough to know that you shouldn't have to address the terms of reference because it is blatantly obvious that the implications of the Government's proposed measures will destroy the aspirations of many talented and deserving students.

I thank you for the opportunity of
chemistry stating the case of many
students who will be disadvantaged
by the proposed changes.

Sincere Thanks,

Geoff Ellis