



15/7/09

Dear Committee Secretary,

Re: Youth Allowance & Regional & Rural Tertiary students.

We are writing to express our concern at the Government's proposed axing of the Youth Allowance.

We are parents of two teenagers ~ one aged 15 years intends to travel to Melbourne to study either teaching or social work. The other aged 20 years is completing an apprenticeship & then may move to Melbourne for tertiary studies. We live on Raymond Island in the Gippsland lakes which is an 8 hour round trip from Melbourne.

Our children will have to pay board or rent a room in a share house in Melbourne. It costs a minimum of \$150 p.w. to rent a shared room in a house in Melbourne. On top of that are the added costs of food & fares, which come to a further \$110 p.w. minimum. Our children do not have the option that city children have to live at home. We

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4. have no family in Melbourne for them to stay with.

The proposal to scrap the Youth Allowance will mean that our children & others in our community will not be given the choice of tertiary study. This means rural students will be disadvantaged & treated inequitably compared with their city counterparts.

The proposal is ~~elitist~~ & not thought through.

We ask the Government to change its proposal & to only scrap the Youth Allowance for city students who live at home.

Yours sincerely

Lee Jarrod  
& Derek