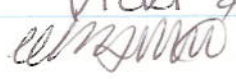


The Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT
2600



To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing as very concerned parents to express our worries that the Federal Government has changed the ruling on the Gap year for students. As parents in a rural country town the burden placed upon us supporting a child at university and another one hoping to go there places immeasurable strain on the family unit. Our country students wish to come back to their country towns and work in professions. This burden of having to work for 30 hours a week and fit in a heavy study load is absolutely discriminating and ridiculous. Sadly these changes will see less students from the country going to university and many that commence university will drop out under the burden of trying to support themselves. Please listen to our desperate pleas. We will await your reply in anticipation.

Vicci & David Schmitt
 & D.G. Schmitt