



30<sup>th</sup> July 2009

*The Committee Secretary,  
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport,  
PO Box 6100,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA ACT 2600*

*Dear Sir,*

***Independent Youth Allowance and Accommodation Scholarship***

*I was very disappointed to hear about the changes the Government is making to the Youth Allowance criteria. It was also disappointing to see that even those who will still qualify for Youth Allowance will receive less money to assist them in paying for their accommodation.*

*As a year 12 student of 2008, I took this year to work, as have many of my peers, and earn money so I could be classified as independent and receive Youth Allowance in 2010 when I move away to attend University. I feel that I have been short changed as the Government is introducing these changes after I had made this decision, which I thought was the best decision for my future.*

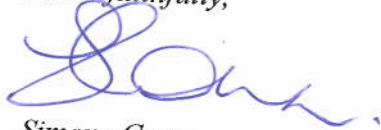
*If these changes go ahead, it will mean that many country youths are greatly disadvantaged as, if we go to University, we will do so with minimal support as our parents are unable to afford to support us. We will either struggle or have to work a lot of hours, taking away from our study, and if we decide to work for 2 years we will lose our deferred University place.*

*The Government is very out of touch with the needs of rural communities as these changes will make University very hard for us, and for many it will be impossible.*

*The Government has not considered rural people, nor indeed young people in general, when making these changes and now there are many individuals who are working that don't know what decision to make at the end of this year.*

*I hope that the Senate inquiry will listen to our concerns and understand the impact these changes will have on our ability to continue with further studies, and not allow this legislation to be passed.*

*Yours faithfully,*



*Simone Conn*