

31 July 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

We are parents of a 19 year old daughter who completed year 12 in 2008. Emma was awarded a part scholarship to attend Gippsland Grammar in Sale for years 11 and 12. This offer required careful consideration from us as parents, as the financial burden impacted on our family of five.

Emma travelled 200km per day from her home at Lakes Entrance, to Sale and back, for two years. She achieved an enter score of 90.95. She undertook a university enhancement subject in Media/Communications and was awarded a high distinction and won the Monash University Prize against all first year Monash students.

From the start of VCE, Emma began planning for her future at University. We decided as a family that Emma needed to work full time for 12 months to meet the youth allowance qualification criteria and therefore have sufficient funds to assist with the cost of living in Melbourne. Like many, we find it hard to believe that the Federal Government has made the decision to basically derail our planning at the utmost critical time.

We feel that the Government is not supporting students like our daughter from the country, who are intelligent, dedicated and at the same time disadvantaged, through no fault of their own, due to the proposed changes to youth allowance.

In closing, we are at a loss as to understanding why the Federal Government would not want to help those rural students with talent and motivation, achieve theirs and Australia's goals. It is these students that will become our professionals and tax payers of a sustainable future in this country.

Regards,



Craig Armistead



Leanne Armistead

