

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to air my grievance at the proposed changes to the criteria for receiving Youth Allowance. Youth Allowance is a fantastic financial support for young people attending Tertiary education and we are grateful for it being offered by the Government. It has been especially appreciated by rural families during recent times of hardship due to the long standing drought and will continue to be a necessary financial assistance.

The proposed changes to Youth Allowance will impact greatly on our children's choice of attending university. Implications being that their anticipated start times for next year will not be possible with the extending of the eligibility out to 2years of employment, prior to being able to apply for Youth Allowance. This will impact personally with future plans, employment and careers being pushed further away. Living in a rural community casual employment prior to leaving school is really not a realistic and available option, so our children have had to seek jobs once completing their HSC. The availability of this employment is away from their home town, requiring independent living. Intending to start their tertiary studies they are again disadvantaged by distance and rural living. To live at home and study is not an option at all, as it maybe for their city peers.

I ask that in the light of unfairness in the proposed changes to Youth Allowance be re considered due to the discriminating impact that it has upon students from farms and rural towns. I hope that the needs of rural families will be fairly considered because our choices are limited.

Yours Faithfully,

*Diana Hill*

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