

Senate Inquiry into independent Youth Allowance

Terms of reference

- a. The financial impact on rural and regional students attending metropolitan Universities.
- b. The education alternatives for regional and rural students wanting to study in regional areas.
- c. The implications of existing and proposed government measures on prospective students living in rural and regional areas.
- d. The short and long term impact of current and proposed Government policies on regional Universities.
- e. The adequacy of government measures to provide for students who are required to leave home for post secondary education. (Uni)
- f. The educational needs of rural and regional students.
- g. The impact of government measures and proposals on rural and regional communities.

I wish to express my concerns about the Government's proposed changes to the Independent Youth Allowance criteria.

A.

The changes will mean that some students from rural areas will simply not be able to afford to attend Universities and TAFE Colleges. Without Youth Allowance, many students will never raise sufficient money to pay the fees at on-campus residential colleges, which can be in excess of \$14,000 annually.

B.

Rural students who can't attend University in major cities do not have alternatives available to them in smaller regional centres.

C.

Without a University education, young people from regional centres will have no choice but to pursue lesser careers in lower paying jobs.

D.

The shortage of university-trained people will impact on the whole economy, not to mention the viability of universities and TAFE colleges.

E.

The government expects students to work 30 hours per week for two years to be eligible for Youth Allowance. This amount of work is simply not available in rural areas. My 18 year old daughter works two jobs and has made it known to her employers that she wants as many hours as possible, yet she gets far less than 30 hours per week. She has been unable to get additional jobs.



F.

Rural students have the same education needs as their urban counterparts. But under the proposed changes, they'll have less opportunities of meeting those needs.

City students have families they can live with while attending university. Country students do not.

G.

Country people are inclined to return to country areas after obtaining university qualifications. Doctors, accountants, nurses, teachers and other professionals are already in short supply in country areas. This shortage will be exacerbated if the Government goes ahead with the proposed changes.

Sincerely
Brian Machin

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B. Machin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Brian Machin".