



Letter to the Editor,
Whyalla News.

Future Careers of Rural Youth

The Rudd Government has discriminated against rural youth with their recent budget cut of eligibility criteria to receive Youth Allowance.

I am 16 yo and am looking at studying in the Health field, a career that is desperately in need of workers, but is expensive to study at University. As I live in Whyalla being 4 hours from Adelaide and it's tertiary education systems, this allowance would have given me living assistance easing the financial strain felt by people moving from rural regions to Adelaide to live, work and study independently in the city.

Before the change, I would have been able to earn the required ~\$17,000 in one gap year and then go to University, having qualified for Government support.

However with the recent changes, I will have to work 30 hours /week for two years before even thinking of going to University and also remember the information from Year 12 in order to succeed at my studies.

Also I am a twin, so the financial strain on my parents would be doubled- this allowance is one that is not just a benefit but more of a necessity if my sister and I are ever to pursue a worthwhile career. I don't want to end up being the one to lend my own parents money for the rest of their lives, because they had to fork out their superannuation, so as to give us both a chance of a decent education and a good career.

Why doesn't the Rudd Government spend more money on education, rather than getting into even more debt by spending however many billions of dollars they plan to use on building a few more submarines?

Attention = The Committee, Secretary/Senate Standing Committee on Rural + Regional Affairs.
4/8/09

I would like to submit the above letter to the Senate Enquiry on Youth Allowance please on behalf of my son Adam, who wrote this letter to our local newspaper to highlight the problem/difficulties that rural families will have as a result of changes to Youth Allowance - please change the criteria for Rural Youth, so they can be eligible - to be able to apply for the University courses that they wish to pursue as a career & give them a fair chance to be able to do this. *Charmaine WITWER*

(* Note: the courses in Allied Health that they are considering are not offered here in Whyalla & UNI SA *)