

The Secretary  
Senate Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee  
Parliament House



Dear Sir

I am writing to you to express my dissatisfaction with the proposed changes to Youth Allowance.

My son was encouraged to pursue tertiary education.

He based his decisions on becoming eligible for Independent Allowance.

. By working hard, he has attained the marks necessary for the place he desired, and has been able to gain employment that would have met the criteria to be eligible. Now, half way through the year he finds changes will be implemented and what he has planned for is filled with uncertainties.

Our farm is affected by the drought and we are unsure what the future will bring for us, and what support we can offer our son.

Surely it is evident by the number of rural students taking the option of a Gap Year that it is crucial support for rural students to be deemed independent.

I feel that the changes make it even harder for rural students and it is untenable that it is proposed to alter criteria for current Gap Year students.

There are many identified areas that currently need more graduates. It must be evident that the measures that the government has taken are still not enough to support young adults at University and encourage them to go into professions that have shortages.

Yours Sincerely

Ian Dusina