

June 8 2009

The Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

Youth Allowance

I am concerned with the proposed changes to Youth Allowance. Unfortunately country students are at a disadvantage when it comes to Higher education as it usually means that they have to travel and most need to live away from home. This is very expensive and many families are unable to meet this cost.

I appreciate the principal of the proposed changes and am a firm believer that Youth Allowance should not be available to everybody, just those who deserve to receive it.

Costs associated with country people providing accommodation for their children is a huge restriction on them educating their children and any change in the Youth Allowance should consider this. Relocating to a bigger centre can impact on country students, without the added burden of financial pressures. Many find it very stressful.

There was also mention that students needed to work two years before they would qualify for Child Support. Many proposed students who leave the system to work fail to return to study and are lost from the system. I believe that many Institutions will not allow students two years to defer their study.

Yours sincerely



Russell Anderson