

4<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

The Senate Inquiry examining regional students' access to education.

Dear Senators,

We write to express our dismay at the proposed changes to Youth Allowance that were proposed in the 2009-2010 Federal Budget.

These proposed changes have not been properly thought through and, if enacted, will impact **unfairly** on the class of 2008 – especially those students from regional areas - who left school having mapped out their approach to furthering their education.

We have a son who finished school in 2008 and who qualified for his desired course at Sydney University. We live outside the metropolitan area and more than an hour travel time via public transport to the nearest University - even if that uni conducted the same course that our son wishes to do - which it doesn't. We are not financially able to support our son through university. Our son was only able to defer his course for one year and if he does not take up the place in 2010 he will lose it. Likewise, we believe it is not possible to work 30 hours per week and study full time. Not to mention the problem of moving to the city and finding 30hours work per week.

We understand the need for changes to the system as it stood. However, due consideration needs to be given to all students not just those "rorting" the system.

We would suggest that the changes need to be delayed until January 2011 and prior to the end of 2009 negotiation needs to take place with the universities, so that it is possible for students who leave school in 2009 and beyond, to defer their university studies for two years.

Yours Sincerely,

*Bernard J Court*

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