

Committee Secretary,
Senate Standing Committee
on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to register my objection to the Government's changes to the Youth Allowance system. I believe the changes completely ignore the very reason that the Allowance was instigated in the first place, and most certainly ensures that university places will be occupied by students who have the luxury of living at home; precluding regional students.

My understanding was that this Government's objective is to turn us into the 'clever country' by supporting education. These changes will ensure that the country will rely on one sector only, the metropolitan sector, to become the 'clever' element of our country. At best, this is discrimination!

Our daughter completed Year 12 last year and had mapped her journey for the next few years. Believing she needed a break from the rigours of study, she deferred her university position and secured a job to gain life experience and to prepare financially for her years of study. Her plan was to work in the job whilst living at home until October or November and then transfer with the company to Adelaide, (the city closest to us - 450km away) The next few months would allow her to continue working, find her feet and familiarise herself with her surroundings before beginning study at the beginning of the university year.

This sounded like a sensible plan to us as we had experienced the difficulties of regional students having to juggle the demands of university while adjusting to city life.

This great plan has been jeopardised by the changes to the Youth Allowance. I do not know where we will find upwards of \$20,000 per year to send this child to university; not to mention the inequity involved between metropolitan and regional people.

The most common argument I have heard is that the old system needed overhauling because the system was being rorted by those who should not have received support. Good, overhaul the system but please don't discriminate against those for whom the system was devised to assist in the first place!

I implore you to advise the Government to overturn their decision to disregard the plight of most regional students who wish to study and to reinstate the living away from home allowance to those who rightly deserve support to contribute to 'our clever country'.

Yours sincerely



Lyn Jacka (Mrs)