

6th August 2009

Dear Senators

I am writing regarding the changes to Youth Allowance for 2010.

My daughter is currently doing a gap year and working hard to achieve the required \$19500 in 18 months which she will achieve. I am very much in favour of a gap year as it gives the student some real world experience and a greater awareness of Monetary matters. I do however think it hard when the time period was changed to 18 months before becoming eligible for Youth Allowance so she will not have that support until May or June next year

Now the situation is about to be changed so that she will have to work for longer, 2 years, before she is eligible which I think is much too long. I feel this is discriminatory against country kids who have to go to Perth for tertiary study. I compare her situation to her cousin who lives in Perth and can go straight to University and continue to live at home and not have this added stress of working and meeting these criteria.

I hope the Senate committee will suggested a more equitable system so that students like my daughter are not discriminated against.

Yours sincerely

Pam McLachlan

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