

5th August 2009

The Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Regional, Rural Affairs & Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to express our dismay at the proposed changes to the Youth Allowance eligibility criteria.

Our daughter, Phoebe, is currently part way through her gap year, with plans to go to university next year (2010). Unfortunately her plans are based on the present rules relating to the Independent Allowance, so she is now faced with completing a second "gap year" to satisfy proposed criteria. The only alternative would be for Phoebe to attend university as a dependant student. Our income is such that she would not qualify for any Youth Allowance as a dependent student, but is insufficient to support her when we live 230 kms away.

We feel that the proposed changes severely disadvantage rural youth who don't have the option of living at home. We also feel that it especially affects our daughter Phoebe (who has a TER of 96.75, and a lot to offer our country!) and her classmates who have made their choices for this year, and their futures, based on the "old" rules.

We hope that we can rely on our Federal Labour government, who have long preached the benefits of an education for all, to make appropriate amendments to these proposed changes.

Yours faithfully

G. Frost
Megan Frost

Messrs. Garry and Megan Frost

