

I wish to make a submission to the inquiry on proposed changes to the youth allowance policy.

In 2008 my daughter was awarded a place to study at Charles Sturt University. She decided to defer her study for a year to earn money and to also prepare her for her four years study at university. She eventually gained part time unskilled employment believing she would qualify for youth allowance support in 2010. Now with proposed changes to come into force (changing from minimum income to minimum hours per week worked.) she would not be able to qualify for the youth allowance.

As the university is approximately 2 hours away, we could not afford to pay for her accommodation, transport, living expenses and fees without the support of the youth allowance.

As we are classed as a middle income family, we could only qualify for a minimum amount of support therefore putting enormous strain on the household budget in order to find the established \$20000 dollars a year that is required to support a living away student.

I believe it is very unfair to change the rules when students have all ready organised their deferment year. It seems that the government is set on making a higher education only accessible to metropolitan students leaving regional students in a far more disadvantaged position to gain a tertiary education.

I thought the federal government prided themselves on giving all students an equal education but this does not seem to be the case.

Yours sincerely,

