

The Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

I am appalled at the proposed changes to the Independent Youth Allowance.

I cannot believe the Labor Party is seeking to introduce such discriminatory and retrograde legislation.

I have supported Labor all my life because I believed it stood for a fair go for all.

If these changes go through they will prevent tens of thousands of young Australians from being able to go to University.

What is the Labor Party thinking!

In the 1970's the Whitlam Labor government opened the universities to the people.

I was one of the lucky ones able to go to university as a result.

My parents were not so lucky. In their day only the rich got an education.

Now it looks as though a Labor government is trying to turn back the clock and rob my daughter of her opportunity to get an education.

I simply can't believe it.

It is heartbreaking.

If this appalling legislation is not amended and access to the Independent Youth Allowance is effectively blocked to young Australians a blight will have been wrought upon all Australians, particularly those in the bush.



My family and friends are equally alarmed at this backward looking bill.

This terrible injustice must not go ahead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Backhaus". The signature is fluid and connected, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Janet Backhaus

30/7/2009