

August 4, 2009

To whom it may concern,

I am a regional student writing in direct objection to the Senate Inquiry into Rural and Regional Access to Tertiary Education opportunities.

Having recently completed year twelve and successfully being granted deferral of my University studies, I am halfway through my GAP year. I was obliged to take this option in order to ensure a successful year of life and study in Melbourne, where without the promised government financial support, would be a struggle for me and my family.

I have made these decisions based on my career advisors and teachers, all believing this financial assistance will be allocated without doubt to us undergraduates moving onto Uni. Otherwise I would have moved straight onto Uni and into a comfortable year in the city with support from the government.

I am aware that my up and coming year is going to cost around \$20'000 just to get by, not including Tuition. This cost is now passed onto my father, the provider of my whole family. I have looked into getting work during my studies to ease this burden but the chances are looking very slim.

As the main goal of this GAP year, I worked hard straight after completing school and eventually achieved to earn the entire sum required for this youth allowance only to find I, and thousands of others in my position, have been left to fend for ourselves.

I understand the reasons behind making the decision to boycott this allowance but to do so to us halfway through their GAP year, with no other choice, dedicating their future to this allowance, leaves us all between a rock and a hard place.

If government decides to disadvantage its own regional students, then what future do you expect for regional communities and trends for future generations of students that will make up the economy and contribute to society.

Don't think I and the rest of the youth in regional Australia are willing to stand by and be disadvantaged by those we elected, be fair and keep your word, that's all I ask.

Yours sincerely,

