

12th July, 2009

To Whom It May Concern

I am currently doing my working Gap year to allow myself to be eligible for the youth allowance next year. I believe I am at a terrible disadvantage because had I been aware of the current changes I would have made a different decision as to what job I would do In the gap year.

I was accepted into the Navy Gap year program but declined this as it would have interfered with my studies next year. Had I known of the legibility changes I would have accepted the offer and carried it on into 2010.

I am a rural student and without the youth allowance my parents will not be able to support my relocation to Melbourne for my studies in 2010. Therefore I am at a loss as to whether or not I will be able to go onto University in 2010.

The government hasn't even considered the fact that Universities only allow students to defer their chosen course for a 12 month period. Therefore if I was to continue working for the 24 month period allocated for the youth allowance eligibility, I would have to re apply for the University course that I would otherwise have already gained a place in, leaving me in a vulnerable situation not knowing wether or not I will get into my course in the coming year.

I believe the Government has not only put all Gap year students at a disadvantaged but has almost eliminated the ability for regional students to pursue there dreams of tertiary education in 2010. There is no real reason as to why the new rules can't be introduced in 2011.

Yours Sincerely

Jessica Eddy