

Senators

I would respectfully ask the Senate to oppose the proposed changes to the eligibility criteria for the financial assistance currently available to students how, by necessity, are required to relocate to access tertiary studies.

The proposed change that requires a student to work for 18 months instead of 12 months is going to seriously impede the students prospects because they will not only be missing a conventional start but will also be too long out of the system to adapt back to studies. It is impossible for a student to work 30 hrs a week, live away from home and commit the hours of study necessary to successfully complete the more demanding subject regimes. Why should students in remote areas be disadvantaged when there is such a shortage of professionals in regional Australia and all the studies indicate that professionals are more likely to practice in the regions if they have a previous attachment.

Please look past the next election and give kids in remote areas the chance they deserve, if not for their sakes ,then for the sake of future services in regional and remote Australia.

Thank you for the opportunity

Michael and Kerry Hetherington