

18/07/2009

Dear Sir/Madame,

RE: Proposed Changes in 2010 - Youth Allowance

I would like to express my concerns and tell you our story.

POINTS OF CONCERN:

*In this economic climate is difficult to obtain and maintain 30 hours per week of paid employment.

*Taking two years leave from academic studies and maintaining educational standards is a difficult task

*Rural students have a limited access to tertiary education

*At the age of 18 these individuals are adults. They have a number of responsibilities which includes driving a car, furthering their education, being accountable to the law and making the right choices. They are independent!!!!

*Universities in WA are offering deferral extensions but some courses will not permit a mid year intake

*The finishing line has been changed during the race. People make plans according to the information given at the time. Year 12 2008 students and their families made plans according to the rules. For most of the students working and obtaining 75% of the minimum wage was the criteria.???

As we live in a tourist area in the south west of WA work and employment is seasonal. At the present moment I have lost 1 day and 2 hours of work on the current roster. I have a daughter who is very diligent and was successful in gaining entry into a Law degree at the Notre Dame University in WA- Fremantle Campus. Shannen found it difficult to find work after the summer holidays so I sent her to Perth. She is now working full time 37-38 hours per week at the Law Courts in Perth and is residing with her father. What a great experience especially as this is her area of focus.

We were hoping!!! that Shannen would earn the 75% of the minimum wage and qualify for the Youth Allowance in 2010 as this would be a great help. As a family we have tried to teach her important values such as work ethics, budgeting, being responsible for one self and making the right life choices.

This whole situation is ironic!! As I am a single parent and Shannen could have just gone straight University from school and she would have been eligible for the Youth Allowance under the Parental Income Clause. I am finding it hard to swallow as we are trying to do the "right thing" but what for??

We are now considering to forget the whole deal and she will commence her studies in 2010 semester one regardless. She is ready and willing to undertake the challenge and I will spend my savings supporting her.

This is so hypocritical of the current Government!!!!!! We should be encouraging the youth of the day to further their education.

Good Luck with the challenge!! I hope we have some positive outcomes.

This is not Confidential.

Kind regards

Leanne Bowen