

Dear sir/madam,

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

The impact on students from rural and remote areas wishing to pursue tertiary studies is profound.

As a parent of a school leaver currently on a gap year I speak from experience when I state this.

Many families will not be able to afford to remain in their home towns and support their children through university. I am aware of several families (ourselves included) in Broome who will be forced to move to the city as accommodation and living expenses will be out of reach.

In the current economic climate, we will incur significant costs and will lose a large amount of money if we are forced to sell and move at this time.

It is vitally important that employers in regional areas are able to attract and retain quality staff who are prepared to commit to living in the town permanently. The Education Department spends large sums of money trying to encourage teachers and administrators to commit to regional schools long term as the benefits to the quality of education are well documented.

There are several families in Broome who will be unexpectedly moving at the end of the year should these changes be enforced.

I urge Government to reverse this decision as it discriminates against regional families.

Yours sincerely

Brett Winfield
Deputy Principal.
Broome Senior High School