

Dear Sirs,

with regard changes to the youth allowance I provide the following comments

- * the change if any should have been introduced over one or more years. Our daughter is caught in this gap year and we will not qualify for youth allowance in any way, she had planned this year over 12 months ago and the goal posts have over time been shifted beyond her/our reach. The signals this has sent to students is not one that supports planning and self reliance
- * Qualifying for youth allowance is a prerequisite to access a number of other allowances.
- * We live in the south west, we don't have family/friends or other accommodation that my daughter can use. How is this not living independently. Yet to qualify there are a number of time/financial rules that are not really testing independence and the additional costs that are incurred compared to city kids who go home each night. Get the rules correct to achieve what the allowance is meant for. In my experience many (often who least need it) are in the best position to manipulate their financial position to meet criteria such as this. Perhaps a staggered allowance based on distance from home.

Please genuinely look at what you are trying to achieve and the target and put rules in place that achieve this not the current set. Be good if you looked at the parent income to qualify as a dependent, if I earned that amount I would not be able to afford a lot of things and tertiary education would not be funded. Your numbers are not very real

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