

I would like to strongly object to the proposed changes to the youth allowance. Our daughter is currently in Yr 11 and will be finishing school at the end of next year. We live 2 ½ hours away from Perth, Western Australia. Our daughter is currently studying for her TEE and wishes to become a doctor which will involve her having to live in Perth to attend university. She plans to take a gap year so she can work for the year so she will qualify for youth allowance. The youth allowance will make it financially more viable for us to be able to send her to university as we have to pay for accommodation for her whilst she is studying for six years. But if the government makes the proposed changes to the current youth allowance funding she will have to take two gap years to qualify for the allowance which will make it extremely difficult for her to go to university after a two year break. Seeing this country is absolutely desperate for country Doctors I would think it would be in your best interest to make it more financially accessible for country students to attend university rather than trying to hinder them once again.

As a rural regional Australian, it is hard enough to cope with the many extra financial pressures that we have and now the government wants to make it even harder for our children to attend university. I fail to understand the logic behind this proposal and once again, let's penalize the people who want it the most and make it easier for those who don't really want it. Why should my child be disadvantaged because she happens to live 250km's away from the only university in WA that has a medicine program. How does the government propose I fund her accommodation as well as provide her with an allowance whilst she is studying??? Yes, she will have to get a part time job to supplement her expenses, but she certainly won't have the time to work full time to cover all her costs and that is why the youth allowance will help with some of these expenses. Maybe I could send her to live with someone from the Labour government in Perth for the next six years to help my child achieve the goal she has had since she was five years old!!!

I would appreciate a response to this email and any other information you may have regarding this matter.

Yours faithfully

Annette Mateljan