

Federal Government Senate inquiry into Youth Allowance.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am extremely concerned regarding the changes to Youth Allowance that the Federal Government is considering.

My daughter is one of the many Rural students these changes will adversely affect. She has studied extremely hard during two years of Upper School to achieve a TER that enabled her to be accepted into her first choice of Tertiary study at Curtin University. Under the present Youth Allowance Policy, she was advised to take a "Gap Year" and work to achieve the status of independence. She has gained fulltime employment for twelve months, with the intention of commencing fulltime study, first semester 2010.

Why, once again, are Rural students being disadvantaged as compared to their city counterparts? Not only are our students juggling the shift to independent living and studying, the majority of students also need to seek employment. The luxury of living at home whilst studying fulltime at one of our Tertiary Institutions is not available to most Rural students. How nice it would be for students to arrive home after a long day at uni to the familiar surrounds of their family home, not to mention the support and mentoring that is provided by parents.

I often hear and read how Australia needs more professionals to keep our country competitive with global markets and businesses. By restricting the chances for Rural Students to study in our cities, we will lose some valuable and intelligent young people who won't have the opportunity to make their mark on the world stage.

By my own experiences I know that a females earning capacity is limited without a degree.

Give the Rural Students a fair go!!!!

Yours Sincerely

Susan Edwards