

I am writing this e-mail because I wish to voice my opinion on a concerning matter. Changes to Youth Allowance, in particular the eligibility for an independent. I am writing and sending this e-mail to;

The Senate
The Education Minister
My local members of Parliament
All Ministers
The media

Do Not change the youth allowance criteria for independent eligibility.
my name is : Debbie Perkins

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my name is : Debbie Perkins
from QL 4380

My eldest daughter has been accepted at QUT Brisbane in 2010 to study nursing. She has taken a gap year to save some money and also qualify for youth allowance as it will cost her \$220 per week to live on campus in addition to her food and general living expenses. As a family we simply cannot afford to pay \$300+ per week to support her during her studies if she does not receive youth allowance to assist with her cost of living. We still have two high school children living at home and it will be an extreme financial burden for us

Many students and potential students will be disadvantaged by the proposed changes to the point in which they may not be able to afford any more education. The 30 hours over 18 months required to achieve independence under the changes does not correspond with the 12 month course defer maximum of institutes. Gifted and highly academic students will be denied government assisted education due to parents income.

Under the previous criteria any Australian student had the possibility to become independent and achieve their dreams starting with education. Now there will be tens of thousands denied these opportunities no matter how hard they work. All Australians should be entitled to the same basic opportunities.

This will have a particularly damaging effect on :
rural families of Australia where distances from institutes will make living at home impossible;

lower middle income families;
larger families with more than two children.

This will negatively affect the National economy and many hard working peoples standard of living.

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