

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 : Krystal Thompson
from vic 3505

My name is Krystal Thompson, I am a current year twelve student and I am very concerned about the proposed legislative changes to the independent youth allowance. I live in the country town of Mildura in northern Victoria. I have always wanted to go to university after completion of secondary school, but now if these proposed laws come into place my options will be limited. My parents earn over the \$43 000 combined incomes, this means that under the new laws I will have to work 30 hours per a week for a minimum of eighteen months to become eligible for the independent youth allowance. The amount of money they earn is nowhere near enough money to be able to support me living away from home to study at university so I have no other option but to apply for the independent youth allowance.

In Mildura we have the institute of TAFE and La Trobe University, but these education resources only supply limited courses. If I decide to go into medicine or many other courses I am unable to study in my home town. This means I will have to relocate to the city, but as I stated earlier my parents are unable to support me financially to do so. My only option is to apply for the independent youth allowance. With the current laws I am able to defer my course for a minimum of a year, and earn enough money to make me eligible for the independent youth allowance. However the proposed laws will mean that I must defer my course for two years. Many universities will not allow deferring of courses for longer than a year. Another worry for me is that after two years time I may have lost interest in studying and I will end up in a low paying job that will not help me build myself a substantial future. For one of my assessment tasks in year twelve English this year, we had to write a speech on an issue in the media. The proposed youth allowance laws was a very popular topic; with all students at my school against the new laws. I have attached my speech on the issue below. My speech was written with the intended audience being my fellow year twelve students, and I wanted to raise many issues that I believe the government has not considered.

I hope you take the time to consider the issues that have been raised. Many people, particularly in regional areas, are displeased with the proposed laws. I understand the argument that current laws allow city people to also get Independent Youth Allowance, but instead of making it more difficult for rural people, perhaps the government could look at geographical location as well as means testing. The proposed laws make the problems worse and will create new issues.

Please take the time to read my speech.

Yours truly,
Krystal Thompson.