

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to express my objection to the proposed changes to the Youth Allowance. These changes will have the most impact on country students.

- Students intending to go to University after Year 12 will not attend Uni for approximately 2 years after leaving secondary school if they are required to work 30 hours a week for 18 months. This I feel would not help them maintain their “studying” patterns.
- Small country towns do not have that type of employment available to young people, especially if they are not intending to stay long term in a position. Employers are reluctant to train people only to have them leave in the short term.
- Therefore these students would have to leave their families in the country to seek employment, causing more financial and emotional stress due to finding accommodation, transportation and generally living an independent life in the city. They maybe leaving home earlier than they are ready for. City students never have to worry about these issues at all , as they can still live at home and find employment and then attend University. Even when city students attend University full time or part time employment is easier for them to find because they do not have to travel home regularly to maintain family connections.
- In my opinion students may be better off attending University full time for 3 years rather than less contact time for 4 years, as finding employment to keep themselves is difficult to manage around a University timetable.

Yours sincerely

Judy Sutton