

To the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport,

My name is Nathan Wotton, and I come from regional NSW. Currently I am just about to finish my HSC, only a few exams left, and the Science and Mathematics degree that I have always wanted to do is not offered anywhere near to where I currently live in Orange NSW. Upon considering all my options I have chosen to move to Wollongong to attend the University of Wollongong.

I chose this university for several reasons:

- The cost of living in Wollongong is lower than that of living in Sydney, where similar courses are offered at the universities in Sydney
- Its the closest university, outside Sydney, to offer the degree I wish to undertake, allowing me to be as close to my family in Orange as possible
- The quality of education at the university, including teaching and courses, is rated very highly

I am writing this short email to the Senate Committee to urge them to strongly consider changes to the way regional students are considered for support, including Youth Allowance, rent assistance and travel assistance (to allow students like myself to travel back home to see their parents and family), not just for now or next year's graduating secondary students, but for every student that is to come. Currently as it stands, even with a job and what support my parents can afford, my life at university will be a struggle.

I honestly hope that the Government as a whole will not just try to use this as a way to save some money, because remember that we, the current youth of Australia, are this country's future and as it stands from the May budget, our future is not looking as bright as people once thought.

I hope this short email will help those in office to realise the serious impacts of their decision,

Yours sincerely

Nathan Wotton

Orange, NSW