

Good Day,

I respectfully submit a request to the Federal Government to reconsider the changes to Youth Allowance for University students.

My second son completed his TCE in Hobart last year and has gone to Canada on a GAP programme for this year. His intention was to follow in his older brothers footsteps and earn enough money to qualify for independent status and Youth Allowance to enable him to return and start a Uni degree in 2010.

We live on the east coast of Tasmania and both boys went to Boarding School in Hobart 200 kilometres away. I have been working away at sea to send the boys to school and this year have taken some time off to travel with my new wife. Unfortunately she has become sick and is now unable to work and I am having to stay home and care for her. We do not qualify for any Government assistance as I still have some savings remaining in the Bank.

My son in Canada is presently thinking of not returning to Australia with its rising unemployment and no chance of going on to University due to the proposed changes in the Legislation.

This, while a disappointment to me, is I believe, a loss to Australia. My son has had an excellent education at the Friends School in Hobart where he was Head Boy last year and has the potential to contribute greatly to whichever society he chooses to live in.

We here in Tasmania have experienced a brain drain for many decades, lets hope this new proposed changes does not cause an exodus of more of our youth out of the Country.

Best Regards,
Captain Quentin Smith