

#### Senate inquiry submission

Please note that we are doing it tough in the country and the students who have any chance at all to pursue their careers at universities in WA have many obstacles to overcome.

In our daughter's case there is the following scenario as she is currently a year 12 student at the local high school-

She has had to save money she earns in the past two years (working nights at a restaurant) to purchase a car to allow her to go to work in the country next year, then commute to university when she gets there and so that she can drive to the country to see her family once she commences university.

We have two other children at the local high school who also wish to go to various institutions to further their study in the near future (both are year 10 students currently). This is stretching the home finances to the limit as we run a beef farm which is not making much headway. Therefore both of them are working at night to supplement the income in order to have some hope for their future.

We need to establish where we will be housing our daughter when she graduates from the high school and very much wishes to go to university. The residential colleges are now asking the \$15 000 per year fee. We see that this is the safest and best option for our daughter who has been raised in the country, then that is another burden on the home finances that we need to deal with.

To have the youth allowance reviewed for the disadvantaged students like our daughter would certainly take the pressure off her (she is quite stressed thinking about how we are all going to help her get to university with the current proposal.)

To show our youth that they are valued and all have equal opportunities I appeal to the senate inquiry to re-consider their stance. Our disadvantaged country students have many more challenges to face when trying to get a tertiary education beyond their high school years. Making it a more manageable entry to university is just one of the challenges.

Rose Muir