

The Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

PO Box 6100

Parliament house

Canberra ACT 2600

With regard to the new Independent Youth Allowance requirements, to me it is not only a cost cutting measure but also a means of sabotaging rural students' access to tertiary study. Has anyone in government actually thought this through??!! Seeing that students can only defer their Uni course for one year, that gives them 15 months, from the end of exams in November until Uni term starts in March after their deferral year, to qualify for Austudy. Obviously with the new rules they will have to **forfeit their place** unless they can somehow magically start their degree 3 months later than the start date. NOT the case!

Furthermore, the pressure is squarely back on rural families to pay for their child to study away from home with no government financial support. Why is this unfair? It is unfair because it is discriminating by geography the availability of choice of tertiary education. The Government wants people to work and fund their retirement. Those families who need to find approximately \$10000 after tax just for accommodation costs for their student adult child [they have turned 18 in year 12] are obviously being forced into a much more difficult financial situation than their city counterparts whose students are still able to live at home!

Other unfair aspects of this whole scenario are to have to earn for 30 hours a week and for over an 18 month period. Why not just have to **save a certain amount** to show financial independence??

It is part of student culture to have a part-time job but very few have the opportunity to increase those hours to 30 hours a week after completing year 12. Of course in small towns that opportunity isn't even there.

IYA should be accessible to all students who have to move away from home for tertiary study. The costs are still the same. This new system is not encouraging our future workers in many fields. We NEED people prepared to take on so many occupations which are not provided for in the local area [TAFE can only do so much].

Please reconsider this system full of loopholes and inconsistencies. The Government must invest in the future. Please listen to Rowan Ramsey, Federal Member for Grey. He has spoken to many people affected by this.

Yours sincerely,

Kaye Jaensch