

Dear committee,

I write today to express my very deep concern regarding the recent proposed changes to the student income support. I have a child finishing Year 12 this year - she was hoping to attend university in 2011 but the changes will make it virtually impossible for her to now attend.

Obviously the government has no real idea of how things work in the real world. Students in the rural and regional areas are greatly discriminated against by these new rules as a student in metropolitan areas can easily live at home and attend university without a huge burden being placed on the family. Any child in regional and rural Australia cannot do that. They must move away from home theyby having to pay accommodation and transport costs on top of our city counterparts normal costs to attend uni. The gov. does not provide a university or transport to one in my (or most other) towns across NSW therefore students MUST leave home at their own expense. The student income is a great help to these young Australians.

One point I must bring up is the ability to get a full time job (30hr p/w) In regional Australia there would not be many full time positions for 18yo straight out of school. Hard enough to get a job let alone 30 hours!

Parental income should not play a part in it. Every full time student should get help to better themselves, and in particular those that have to move to get that education. Do we want a lot of uneducated people in the rural areas ? That is what will happen with this new rule change. It was hard enough before but now its impossible.

Do we want only city people to be educated? I think not! Also do we want qualified people in the rural and regional areas of Australia or do people living in metro areas deserve more? The way to get more of these people to work in rural Australia is to get rural students to become qualified then they will tend to stay in the areas that they have called home!

Thankyou
Mrs CH Lucas