

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to your department on behalf of my family's disgust at the proposed changes to the

youth allowance scheme . I find it difficult to believe that the government would drop this scheme as it is very difficult

at present for students to go to a metropolitan university with regards to surviving financially and succeeding

academically at the same time. At present , we have one child studying at UWA, another child accepted to study at

UWA next year (it is her gap year this year) and one child in year 8 at Margaret River SHS. My eldest child has been lucky

enough to gain entry into a uni campus for board ,meals etc. and this has been fantastic for his confidence in adjusting

to city life without any family help (except finance) ,and to adjust to student academic life at the same time.

However , my daughter Cecile, who has worked very hard at High School to achieve an

appropriate TEE score to gain entry into UWA to study science and health,and will earn the amount that was originally

needed to gain the Youth allowance will not be eligible to do so because she will not be able to meet the new criteria of 30 hrs.

min.per week for the period required. In fact , she has been working more than this since she left school in 08 , and has saved

enough money to visit my French wife's family in France, and has a menial job to come back to until she was supposed to start

university ! Now she wonders if it is worthwhile to pursue this option due to our financial constraints and hers as well.

She does not want to burden us with this problem , but we now that her heart was set on this course and

now she believes to be a situation that is too hard and unfair because we live in the country and have no family backup in Perth.

It seems grossly unfair on all the country students in this gap year to have this situation lumped on them and I implore your

dept. and the government to reverse this descision so that our country kids are not disadvantaged because of where we live !!

Yours sincerely

Bernard Abbott