

Hi,

Just a quick note as a parent of a rural student who wasn't allowed to defer her studies and doesn't qualify for youth allowance. It would greatly assist ALL country students if the eligibility criteria was changed to allow some assistance to students who live 100km from their nearest tertiary campus. This is the main reason why young people do not go onto further education or have a lesser uptake in going straight from Year 12. They have no choice but to rent a house and find a part time job in order to relieve the extreme financial hardship this move puts on their parents.

City and regional students usually live within easy commuting distance of a tertiary campus. Therefore, they can continue to live at home and usually utilize cheap public transport. Rural students have to buy cars, find bond, rent houses, source a part time job, pay higher petrol costs, have no public transport to rely on and get no assistance to relocate. Even access to rental assistance based on their part time income would greatly relieve the immense financial strain experienced by students and their families having to support 2 or more households.

Yours sincerely

Kelly Gannon