

31/7/09

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Rural and Regional access to Secondary and Tertiary Education Opportunities

Youth allowance and similar government schemes have made it possible for so many country students to attend university and gain other opportunities by giving them the financial means by which to do so. Removing these will stop many students from pursuing further education and mean that they will endure low income jobs and have no ability to explore the world past their immediate area in years to come.

While I understand that many students, especially those from affluent families and city children have been exploiting the system this does not make it right for the government to disadvantage those who don't have the means or ability to exploit it and are simply earning the money in the hope that they will be able to further their career opportunities by attending university.

If changes are going to be made to youth allowance and other scheme's then they should be made relative to your postcode. Put harsher enforcements on city children and those who have immediate access to university and other educational opportunities, not those who don't. Those who live in the city don't have to worry about accommodation costs, food costs or transport costs. Country children do everything they can to help ensure that they can survive day-to-day in the city by earning enough money to obtain Youth allowance and relieve some of the financial pressure from often already struggling families.

I thought the government wanted people to further their career prospects and opportunities but obviously even the Labor government who are supposed to be for the working class is preferring to side with the affluent. Many politicians came from country area's, perhaps its time the left their bay side tax funded apartments for a weekend and visited their grassroots to see what really matters and who they are really affecting. While we would all like to provide the best for our children this isn't always easy for some people so let those who have ambition and the foresight to obtain youth allowance access and attend university or other educational opportunities. While it may save the government a few dollars now, it will be paying for years to come forking out welfare to all those on low income payments and to people who can no longer see past their country high school and into the bigger world.

Regards,
Harriet Kempton.