

Dear Senate,

My Name is Taylor Miles and I am 15 going on 16. As a young adult I constantly think about my future goals and career choices. I had planned, like so many before and present that after completing my final year of schooling i would find myself a job for one year. This would give me the necessary hours so that I may earn the amount needed to complete a gap year resulting in getting well needed youth allowance. I had planned to work hard to get the money needed early on in the year so that by the end I would be able to go on a deserved holiday. This would aid me to de-stress, broaden my mind as well as engage in different cultures, traditions and religions before returning back to my home town and then going off to University to begin my teaching course. With the current youth allowance this life plan was going to become a great and happy experience for me and would no doubt become a reality. Unfortunately this wonderful dream that I had held for many years, I fear will no longer exist if the new youth allowance program is to go through.

This new system is an insult to all hard working students and supporting parents. Many families around Australia simply can not support the overwhelming cost of a University course, especially in such hard and difficult economic times. Kevin Rudd tells us of the hardship ahead so why take away the one thing that is helping to continue the amount of educated workers coming into the workplace. The new system tells us that a youth allowance can still be earned, it is said that funds will be available for the needy, or if they can work students can work for a minimum of 30 hours a week over an eighteen month period. This is a unreachable standard for uneducated young adults. In this economic time, adults are even finding this an impossible task. This is especially trying on students in country or remote areas where there are few jobs available.

Without youth allowance I will have to work vigorously for a year or more collecting enough money to support myself when in university. I may also need to get myself a job while at University adding stress and taking up study time when I should be doing important assignments or listening to vital lectures. This letter, I hope will give you reason to see that taking away the youth allowance will be a terrible mistake which may cause you to regret in future times. Taking away youth allowance will take away Doctors and Nurses, lawyers and social workers, teachers and psychologists, scientists and maybe even possibly senators like yourself. When voting for Kevin Rudd we didn't think we would be given such treatment. We voted for him because we thought he was a man of the people, someone who understands what we need to survive in such a complex world. Yet this is what we are given, the back hand. We did not vote for this. We did not vote for this Mr. Rudd. I ask if not beg of you, to consider the points that I have made and contemplate them. I thank you most earnestly for taking the time out of your busy schedule to read this letter.

I thank you once again.
Yours truly,
Taylor Miles