

A submission to the senate.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Thomas Draper and I am a young man who has lived in the country all my life. I have always held close agricultural values and have long desired to specialise in animal production, as I believe strongly in its importance for my country's future prosperity. Living in a rural area, education has always proved difficult for me, though I never considered myself disadvantaged, merely under a different circumstance to students in suburban areas.

After having just left school, I decided to further my education by enrolling with Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Throughout my first year of animal science, I struggled under both a heavy workload and a severely restricted budget, and I can only guess at my supporting parents, who always fronted a coping attitude, personal struggle. As of right now, I am on a deferred leave of absence in order to achieve the threshold dictated by the government in order to receive youth allowance, thus easing my parents burden and my own financial struggle. I believe this proposed change to the youth allowance system, while directly affecting myself and many of my peers, would be disastrous to rural tertiary education as it would force so many young individuals, who already have hardships finding work as it is, to find two years of consistent work in an ever deteriorating job market.

As such i believe that if such a decision is passed, the negative ratifications to rural communities, both financial and psychological, would far outweigh any speculated benefits.

My appreciation for your time.