

Dear Senators,

I am writing this submission in regards to the proposed changes to the Youth Allowance. As a current year 12 student I am outraged at these changes which will leave many current and future university students without financial support.

Requiring young people to work 30 hours a week for **two** years is absurd, for two reasons;

1. Universities only allow students to defer for **one** year, which is the only time we can work full time and
2. Imagine attempting to juggle 30 hours of work a week, attend lectures and tutorials and complete assignments, such a feat is incredibly impractical and nigh impossible.

These proposed changes to the requirements for the Youth Allowance will mean that many who are currently receiving it will not longer be eligible, and as many university students are living out of their back pocket even with the current Youth Allowance, how does the government suppose these people will survive without the financial support the current Youth Allowance provides? Some will even be in a situation so dire they will turn to marriage just so that they will qualify for it, is this the sort of rash decision making the Rudd Government wishes to force upon the youth of Australia?

As previously stated I am currently in year 12 and had intended on taking a gap year in 2010, I have even applied for the ADF's gap year program, which is something that I have planned to do for several years now. However due to these proposed changes I have been left in a state of limbo, if I fulfil my dream and complete the ADF's gap year program I will have to hope and pray that I receive some form of financial support from the government as my parents will be unable to support me through 4-5 years of university. But if I let go of my dream and go straight to university I will receive financial support that the current Youth Allowance has to offer, albeit for a short time. So I am left in the predicament where I either sacrifice my dream and go straight to university, or live off bread crumbs for however many years I attend university.

I implore you not to allow this legislation to pass, such a proposal will have a wide spread negative effect on the youth of Australia, especially those in rural areas.

R M Spiby-Jones