

What is it that we want for the future leaders of our country and states? We have endeavored to improve the trade sectors for future years with increased activity into students having access to trade opportunities, but what of the opportunities of those students who wish to enter university.

Students, already disadvantaged in the country, do their best to help fund their dream to go to university by using choosing a GAP year of work are now to be denied their dream. With the extension of requirements to gain Youth Allowance many students will have to gain employment for the 2 years. How many of these students after 2 years out of the study habit will then reapply to university.

Is the Government trying to encourage further study or blatantly discourage and further discriminate against those who choose to live in the country?

Many of us, without the assistance of Youth Allowance will never afford to give our children the opportunity of going to Uni. Mind you many of the families affected have been the stalwart community members often working many jobs with minimal help from Government agencies in the general upbringing of their children. These are the people that have not “wrought the system” over time and then when the government can actually step up to help these hard working tax payers and their families, the government steps back to say, “not my problem”.

Our children from the country areas must leave home in order to attend university. They deserve to be automatically considered independent and should qualify for the youth allowance in their own right.

This is about the future of our country and about what the government really values, our home grown abilities or those skills that we continue to “import”. Please make the right decision for our children.