

Mrs Janine Dowdell

## **INEQUALITIES IN TERTIARY EDUCATION FOR RURAL STUDENTS**

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I am writing as a concerned rural resident and parent in regards to the terrible injustices that rural students face to complete tertiary studies.

Firstly the students have the **additional financial expense of accommodation** (which for boarding in Adelaide is approx. **\$300 per week**) which city students able to study whilst still living at home do not have to consider.

**THIS IN ITSELF IS A HUGE BURDEN FOR THE STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIIES TO COVER.**

With the current changes to income thresholds many students will not be eligible for Youth Allowance meaning parents will have to cover this. Most middle income families will simply not be able to find \$300 plus dollars from their budgets so how will these students access tertiary education? The new changes do not support these students and families.

The families this affects are not wealthy people, just average two income families who want their children to have the opportunity to equitable access to tertiary education.

Rural students also have to contend with the emotional implications from living away from their families. They have to fend for themselves and do not have the emotional support of family on a daily basis.

**PLEASE CHANGE THE YOUTH ALLOWANCE INCOME THRESHOLD AND 30 HOUR ELIGIBILITY SO RURAL STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS TERTIARY EDUCATION IN THE SAME WAY THAT CITY STUDENTS CAN.**