

The Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on  
Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

24<sup>th</sup> August 2009

### Concerns over Youth Allowance Scheme Changes

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to express my concern at the proposed changes to the Youth Allowance Scheme.

I think the proposed changes will seriously affect the opportunity of rural youth to attend tertiary courses held in regional centres. These young people have no choice other than to leave the family home and rent some sort of accommodation. In order to fully comply with the course requirements they can only apply for supplementary work on a limited time availability. This work is often difficult if not impossible to find. If work is found the income is usually meagre.

They are then forced to obtain supplementary funds from their parents. These are often limited and usually already allocated to the day to day running of the household (mortgages, rent, health care, insurance meals etc).

The cost of funding a child outside of the family home is much more expensive than if staying at home. Some recognition or support should be provided for this.

I request this committee review the proposed changes and in particular show some consideration to rural youth. These people are obliged to leave the family home to gain further education.

These young people should be supported, not forced to live in poverty.

Yours Faithfully



Julian Calver

