

YOUTH ALLOWANCE AND THE DISADVANTAGE TO REGIONAL AND REMOTE AREAS

I am just bewildered that this Government who have always claimed they are for the education revolution within Australia and they want to make it more difficult for our young and future population to gain an education and be our countries professionals. Having to leave home and move away to gain a university degree is not only difficult for a young person emotionally they now have to face it without the support of youth allowance. How do they expect them to study with some cases of up to 20 – 25 hours face to face and then they have to study at least this amount again. Where do you fit in a job that will pay enough for them to rent, eat, pay for fuel or transport, cloth themselves let alone have anything for some leisure time.

A young school leaving that has to move away at least had the opportunity to work for twelve months and earn a level to qualify for independence. Even though they were not able to start claiming youth allowance for 18 months they knew once they started study that they only had a few months before they would be getting some allowance. I am not saying that they should not work if they can, but even in getting allowance they have to work because the allowance is not way enough to live out of home.

I can understand if you live at home with your parents that youth allowance should not be paid as they have that support and accommodation.

I am saying why is there not an exception if you live more than 1 hour from the university of study and that you have to leave home to study the course of your preference.