

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
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For those of us who live in the country and have the huge expense and worry about sending our children to the city to attend University the issue of Youth Allowance is huge.

So it is gratifying to hear that Public Hearings will be held in Perth for those who wish to make statements.

When do we find out – the first day of the hearing!

Do you people not understand COUNTRY and RURAL? Do you take this issue seriously or is this just waving the flag of concern and then nothing will come from it!

We are probably the closest rural centre but is still 200km away. We cannot just drop everything and take a couple of hours off work to attend a hearing.

At your hearings please take these concerns in to consideration:

1. Your 18yo daughter leaves a country town to move to the city to study at University – where is she going to live, how safe will she be, what about transport?
2. You decide the safest and easiest transition will be University College – but that is now an annual bill of \$11,000 for 2x17 week semesters.
3. Transport – no parking for 1st years – reliant totally on public transport. Nervous about buses at late times so taxi costs.
4. Parental support is 2 hours away but tank god for Skype video.
5. Computer printer dies – Dad can't get there to fix so easier to buy another one
6. laptop plays up – hours spent over the phone trying to sort out problem if she cannot find someone at college to help.
7. Daughter sick – try and find local GP or wait for hours at local emergency department by yourself.

None of the above is applicable to city students living at home.

By having adequate financial support this helps relieve some of the stress leaving us to deal with the other issues as best we can.

As for 18 months working to become eligible – unbelievable.

Take this in to consideration please -

Our daughter is studying Medicine at the University of Western Australia:

- 6 years study
- 1 year internship
- 2 years residency
- 4 years specialty registrar (Emergency Medicine or Physician)

So on top of 13 years of study you want to throw in more delay to become eligible for Youth Allowance.

No wonder we do not have enough doctors in rural areas.

Kevin & Julie Jones