

25th July, 2009.



To Whom It May Concern:

I feel compelled to write about the changes to Youth Allowance.

I have a son who is currently doing Year 12. He hopes to attend University in Adelaide in 2011, after spending a gap year working in the south-east of South Australia where he lives. Before the proposed changes to Youth Allowance, this seemed to be a fair system for rural kids, which made it possible financially, for them to relocate to the city. As my son wishes to study journalism, he has no option but to live away from home.

I cannot believe the Government is considering these changes to Youth Allowance. As rural people, we are already disadvantaged when it comes to Education (amongst other things). The Government doesn't provide these educational opportunities for rural students, hence the need to leave home. Youth Allowance may be the only chance for many country kids to further their education. The costs involved with relocating are huge.

One of the reasons for the changes to Youth Allowance, I understand, is to stop city kids "double dipping". How can this occur if the student has a separate living address, which clearly shows rent paid through an agent, and is different from the parents?

This Government is clearly discriminating against country people. This is such an unfair situation. Doesn't every child have a right to further their Education? Sadly, with the proposed changes to Youth Allowance, this will not be possible.

Joanne Hetherington.