

Submission to the inquiry – re: Youth Allowance

I graduated from Monaro High School last year with a Higher Schools Certificate. I intend to study Business and Communications in the following year at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst after deferring for a year to work full time.

Studying a tertiary degree will mean that I would have to move out of home and live independently. A move made quite difficult with insufficient funds. Although working throughout my gap year when work was available in a small town such as Cooma, I still will fall short when trying to meet the rather expensive on campus University accommodation fees.

Due to the government's revision of the regulations of Independent Youth Allowance, to meet the requirements for youth allowance I would have to defer my degree for another year and continue to work to meet the revised "30 hours a week in a two year period" requirement. This change to the period is a strange one. Considering the norm is a gap year and what I based my deferment on. I wish to commence my studies next year and not have to wait once again to make this possible.

Cooma is a small regional town (although not classified as one) and the nearest University is two hours away, meaning it is necessary to move away from home to further studies.

It is those who live in towns such as this that the changes to the independence rules affect the most. It has placed an added stress to those students wishing to further their education as the government has made it increasingly harder to accommodate them financially.

I hope that you will consider all of these factors.