



Dear Ms. Richard Skelton,  
I am writing this letter to express my disappointment at the proposed changes to the Youth Allowance Scheme, from next year, which will further disadvantage rural students.

It is nigh on impossible for a student to obtain period that amount of money, or hours worked, in a country town should they choose to stay at home for a "gap" year before going to a tertiary institution to further their studies.

I am a working single parent with 2 children, 21 and 18 yrs old respectively. My eldest child took a gap year and is now studying teaching in the ACT. He does have 2 jobs as well as

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having access to Youth Allowance, should he need it, which gives her leeway for a study/work balance.

My daughter finished her HSC in 2008, planning to do a similar path but unfortunately she may miss out on her desired University course as the amount of hours & money ~~proposed~~ prepared to be needed from 2010, will not enable her to start next year. She may only defer for 1 year, what is she to do?? Thankyou. Could you possibly make it any more difficult for rural students??

The township of Young does not have the opportunities for young ladies to work on average of 3 hours/week, in the local Abboton is not an option

There are so many young people who don't have parents to "pave their way" through Tertiary Education, or like myself and my children, who would like to pursue their careers under their own steam, as I did!

Travel to the city to live is an adventurous one for many young people who are inexperienced in this way of life. So I am happy & excited to have my daughter live at home for another year to give her experience & financial security, but now her planned future is uncertain and unsettling for us all, thank you again. Perhaps to consult with real families who did not have private school education would have been

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a wise option that would  
not cost you many votes  
in the next election.

Our isolated rural  
community is difficult  
enough, please don't make  
it harder for our rural and  
regional youth to get  
ahead in life, under their  
own steam.

Yours Sincerely  
Susan Larkham  
Ms Susan Larkham