

28/07/09

*Attention The Committee Secretary*

I am writing to you on behalf of the Port Lincoln High School Governing Council and the School community.

The proposed changes to the Youth Allowance have been on our agenda for several meetings. We have informed the senior students about the proposed changes and given them online petition details to sign. The overwhelming consensus is that if the proposed changes came in, it would be to the detriment of country students. The average cost to send a country student to Uni is \$16,000 per year. This is living expenses only; not Uni costs. For a lot of people this is a struggle, let alone taking away the Youth Allowance, which for some students, would be to cover the cost of rent.

We urge you to consider country families, as if these changes come in, there will be less country kids attending Uni, so their rights to a higher education wouldn't be reached and it will affect communities when their skills won't be transferred back into services.

Michelle Foreman

Port Lincoln High Governing Council Secretary.

