

3rd August 2009
The Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Rural and regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wanted to voice my concerns regarding the proposed changes on Youth Allowance. I have a son who completed Year 12 last year. To assist himself financially through University, he opted to defer his further studies and work for 12 months. This practise has been known as 'the gap year'. Employment was through a family business, which saved applying for whatever positions were advertised within our local rural Community, which on average is 2 positions per week. During his HSC studies, my son was not in a position to work 15 hours per week because of health and transport issues. As Parents we were never informed that we needed to be financial advisors for our children's futures.

My son was fortunate to gain a position in the Bachelor of Rural Science at New England University. It is not cheap to support him at University. As well my son has a disability which requires careful monitoring of his diet. Food prepared by the Colleges in general are not suitable and may exacerbate his condition. So on top of Uni fees, accommodate fees, text books etc. my son requires finances for food to help him stay in good health. However now his future is uncertain as the work he has done this year and the finances he has saved may mean nothing. This will then put further financial burden on my husband and myself, as we have other children to educate, with one planning to start University in 2011.

I would request, that the proposed changes do not apply for those people already doing a 'gap year'. I also suggest that any future changes are passed onto families with plenty of warning and information.

Yours sincerely,



Roslyn Bulloch

