

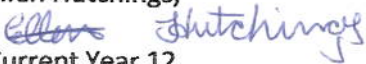
The Committee Secretary of the Senate Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport,

I would like to say that not only are the proposed changes to the Youth Allowance Independence Tests unfair, they are far too strict. The hours per week are not averages this is terrible what if someone got sick and had to take a day of work? Would they then have to start again? And the chances of students getting back into their studies after what realistically would have to be 2 years are quite low. And this new system is not even based on an amount of money that the person has to earn there is no flexibility for someone to work 20 hours one week and 40 the next.

I am in year 12 I plan to go to Adelaide for university I will not be able to work a full time job as well as participate in my studies so I was hoping to get Youth Allowance to assist myself. I live in my parent's house at the moment, I cannot get youth allowance because my parents own a farm, they may have assets but they can't afford to pay for me while I am university . I can't live with my parents at home while I am at university unlike the many people who live in Adelaide, because we live to far away.

If you allow the changes you will not only be ruining my chances at university but the thousands of others who took gap years this year and will not qualify and so have to take a further 18 months off of their studies. You will be ruining the chances of many young rurally based people to go to university and you will be reversing much of the hard work that the governments of the past have done to make education accessible to rural people.

Ellen Hutchings,


Current Year 12

