

Inquiry into Rural and Regional Access to Secondary and Tertiary Education Opportunities.

Dear Committee

Thanks for investigating Youth Allowance issues and for considering my thoughts.

I agree with targeting the youth allowances in a more equitable way but I think that a lot of the problems could be resolved by changing the start date to June 1 2010 but also put a parental income in for those young people applying under this group ie \$150,000 per annum. OR this could be a useful tool anyway for students who have to leave home to study.

I also think that there could be a separate consideration to those students who have to leave home to study ie country student or where a course is only available in certain cities. (not just choosing to leave home) Parental income consideration in this situation should be at a higher annual income because it is impossible to maintain 2 homes (the family and the students) on the level of parental income that it is currently set at and even the new proposed levels with out extreme hardship. This is why there have been so many young people taking the year off to get independence status.

It is great that the student will be able to keep more of the youth allowance if working when that measure finally comes in but... the young country person already has to put more in their day as an independent person ... shopping, cooking, cleaning, paying bills and everything else involved with living away from the family home. Add in working more to add to their youth allowance if they can get work in this economic climate and we hope that doesn't impact on their study and maintaining a healthy balance in their lives. (study/work/sport/recreation)

I had a student who took the year off and then never went. Too hard.

Yours sincerely

Beverley Jaeschke

Mrs Beverley Jaeschke



Please put some equity in for country students