

I wish to lodge my concerns regarding the changes to Youth Allowance for rural and regional students. My son does not have any choice but to leave home to attend university. The proposal that he work 30hrs/wk for two years to qualify for Youth Allowance is extremely unrealistic. Obviously the people making the rules have not lived in a rural area with approx. 300 Yr12 students all after jobs at the same time

- How is a rural area to produce all these jobs to allow students to work the required hours? My son has worked since finishing Yr12 at the end of 2008 but the most hours he is getting is approximately 20hrs /week and he is one of the lucky ones!
- How is he supposed to settle into study at university if he has to work 30hrs/wk to meet the requirements? This sort of pressure will lead to a lot of students dropping out university
- Are our children who took a gap year under the old rules going to be affected by this change?
- I think these rules will result in a lot of children turning their backs on university which will lead to a further drain on health, education and other fields in the years to come.
- All our children want is a fair go but these changes make it extremely hard if not impossible for them to achieve their goals

I am extremely concerned at the impact these new rules will have on our children
Kaye Kirkwood