

Re- Youth Allowance Concerns

Dear Sir,

My daughter Renee completed year 12 last year. She went to Swan Christian College and boarded at Swanleigh in Midland W.A. She has always wanted to be a Nurse. As we live in Cervantes 260 km from Perth. Renee had to move to Perth this year to attend Tafe at Joondalup. Because Greg (my Husband) and I aren't low income and we both work hard!! My daughter is unable to receive any rent assistance or Youth Allowance. Renee did a 9 week course "Certificate 3 in Aged Care" and started a 18 month Enrolled Nursing Diploma last week. Because her Tafe course is full time it is very hard to get a job. She has walked Joondalup with her resume and applied online too many businesses. She is working at the Joondalup resort on the weekends. But recently they have been so quiet she hasn't had much work. How can she live in Perth with no Money? We are helping her out by paying her rent and giving her food money. \$250.00 a week.

I went to the Centrelink office in Joondalup with Renee and they told me Renee can't receive any Youth allowance or rent assistance unless we kick her out of home and she is classed as independent, I found this shocking and terrible I couldn't believe Centrelink are encouraging families to lie or kick their children out. I would never kick my own child out of home. I love them dearly and have strong family values. She is living in Perth because she has to, and because she wants to be a Nurse. If the governments proposed changes mean a longer period to be classed as independent. A lot more country students will pull out of tertiary education because they can't afford to live in Perth. Or parents will kick their children out of home so they can be classed as independent.

I hope you can understand why we are so disappointed, our daughter is doing it very tough, and I can see why other children don't go into tertiary studies. They can't afford too.

Thankyou,
Maureen Milliken