

I am concerned that changes in policy on Youth allowance will affect the ability of my family to support my child (currently in year 9) and particularly students currently in their gap year who are expecting to qualify for Youth Allowance next year. It is clear that many of those will have to defer their studies further and indeed some will abandon their ambitions altogether. These changes will effectively discourage regional students from higher education.

As a farmer I have an asset value of near one million dollars yet a taxable income of less than 30 thousand dollars. To support a child through university would be difficult. The Youth Allowance qualification until now has allowed our son to attend UWA and he will be completing a science honors degree this year.

Many Country students are already disadvantaged in their education having to travel long distances by bus each day or find board in larger towns away from their family to complete year 12 and TEE. They need Youth Allowance to support them while furthering their studies. They need to be given extra help to take advantage of the opportunities that city students enjoy.

Bill and Gemma Rice