

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this submission in relation to proposed changes to the “Gap Year” possibility of students getting financial support from the Government to study in the city.

My son is in year 11(2009) and will hopefully study to be an engineer (this is his dream) after completing VCE. It is a real concern to me as a parent that funding my son’s stay in Geelong or Melbourne will be a huge financial strain on our family. Previously we thought the “Gap Year” was an option to us so that he could defer his course 1 year and earn enough money to get financial assistance.

I now understand that proposed changes will mean he could not enroll for his course at the end of VCE, as the time would be too long before commencement is accepted into the course.

Surely there could be an easier way for people living outside a certain radius to get financial help for students wishing to study away from their hometown.

After all, a lot of these students will then ultimately bring their profession back to country areas where we so desperately lack qualified people in so many areas.

Yours sincerely

Pauline Cooper