

To whom it may concern.

As a Parent of two students currently studying at Adelaide Universities I'd like to ask the Government to consider the inception of a new Rural and remote Study allowance for Tertiary students living in Country and remote areas. Not just for the lower income but accessible to ALL STUDENTS having to move for study.

There is support for lower income families and students by means of the dependant Youth allowance, but this funding is not accessible to the average Mr and Mrs Australian with a combined family income of more than \$39,000. (I believe the average Australian wage is around \$45,000 - \$57,000) so the \$39,000+ is pretty much below the poverty line.

I can understand why the Government has proposed changes to the Independent Youth Allowance, as I'm sure there are many students living at home in Metro Australia and receiving funding when they could quite easily be kept on their Parents income. Should we have had the opportunity of having the Universities in remote Australia, I would gladly have my children at home under my care and support them as well. They would still hold down their small out of school jobs that they had for the past 3 years, could use our cars and still live in the family unit. This however was not possible so they have had to move to Adelaide at a great monetary cost to us.

Our family income is average and we still have the same sort of bills that others in the city do, Mortgage, other siblings to support, bills to pay etc and now because our Students don't qualify for Independent Youth Allowance, we have to support the running of an extra household in Adelaide so our Children can study. This seems so unfair when their city counter parts and Parents, continue on living their un interrupted normal life.

My Children have been forced to work while studying in Adelaide so they can obtain independent status so they can receive Youth Allowance, but it has and will take them nearly two years. Why can't they be recognised as independent as soon as they leave to study, no matter what the Family income.

My remedy would be to create a new allowance maybe called a "**RURAL AND REMOTE STUDY ALLOWANCE**" and make this available to **ALL RURAL AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY STUDYING STUDENTS**, providing they can prove that they have been accepted into a University or TAFE college. The Government could confirm that study is continuing each term or semester by having that student provide confirmation from the University/TAFE. Should the study cease, then the "**Rural and remote study allowance**" would cease. The allowance could be restricted to Students that have studied their Secondary education in a Rural High School for years 11 and 12 and are required then to travel over 150 - 200km to further their study and must be living in an independent situation. This could mean, not with Family or something like that? Please just give our kids a fair go. There is enough pressure on those Country kids as it is, try and make their University study not so hectic and this will keep suicide down, help with anxiety problems and depression that seem to be prevalent with so much stress put on them. That in itself opens up another can of worms.

I believe the Government offers numerous support networks to the lower income families in the form of the Baby bonus, FTB A & B, study allowances, etc etc. but there really is nothing that you help us with when it comes to supporting our students in their Tertiary education. These educated rural students will be the ones that will go back to their roots and work in their educated field once they have graduated. They will contribute to the tax system during the many years of their working life so the Government can pay the less fortunate so why can't you see your way clear to helping these Students and Families through those few years.

Change the Independent Youth Allowance if you must as that will save you money from the area where it should be taken (Students in Adelaide living at home with Mum and Dad) but please consider bringing in a new form of support for the remote families and their Children.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.

Sue Dolling