

Good afternoon

I have several issues with the impending changes to the youth allowance scheme.

1. Government continually pushing for relocation of population to the regions, however,
  - No university campus located in smaller regional centres
  - Limited educational options for students
  - Not treated with equity to their city counterparts who basically just move from one school to another (University) NO ACCOMODATION EXPENSES necessary
  - Regional Students accommodation - Perth for University
    - On campus (No family support) - \$15,000 Min
    - Private accommodation - \$400 per week
  
2. All of the above refer to the current system which is less than perfect and now, it is planned to further disadvantage those that live in Regional Centers by:-
  - City kids can go to University directly from school at 17 years old – degree completed by 20, because they can live at home with support of their family both financially and emotionally. They can work part time to get a bit of pocket money
  - Country kids have to wait for almost 2 years until they are 19 years old – degree completed by 22, as they are required to work and earn \$19,000+ over 18 months, of which they cannot have any of that money in the bank, just to get YOUTH ALLOWANCE so they can actually go to University. They have to work 2 or 3 part time jobs just to survive.

**THIS THEN PUTS THEM BEHIND THE GAME FROM AN EMPLOYMENT PERSPECTIVE AS THEY ARE OLDER AND HAVE NO EXPERIENCE.**

**ALTERNATIVE:-\**

1. All TEE students from Regional Centers attending a University in the City, where a campus or course is not run in their Regional Centre should be eligible for Youth Allowance. This should be assessed on the following criteria.
  - i. Are they living independent of family members where accommodation costs, (Not Board) is payable - FULL ALLOWANCE
  - ii. Are they living with family or friends – Board only payable - PORTION of the ALLOWANCE Payable
  - iii. Metropolitan students – only eligible for FULL YOUTH ALLOWANCE if not living at home.

The proposed changes, if adopted, will see a reduction in the population of Regional Centres, making them less viable. This will result in a huge social and economic impact on infrastructure, resources and the standard of living in capital cities and see degradation of facilities in Regional Centres as families relocate to accommodate University access for their children.

A higher number of Regional students will resort to Unemployment benefits as there will not be the work in the Regional Centres to accommodate them all. They can't move to the city, because they won't have the funds to do so.

I have a Year 12 student, we live 500kms from the city, where he has no family to stay with. This requires him to seek accommodation. We have 2 other children in a private school, a mortgage etc and cannot afford to send our child to University without him being eligible for Youth Allowance. He is already 18 as he was required to repeat year 1 due to medical issues, so therefore is already behind by one year and now you are imposing another 2 year sentence on him.

Rowena Carnaby