

To the Senate,

Im writing to you today in regards to the changes in the new youth allowance rules. I chose to start my journey after year 12 by having a gap year in the hope of earning enough to qualify for youth allowance in 2010. I was lucky that in my usual part time job i could get more hrs 28-29 a week which would get me to achieve my goal so that in 2010 when i moved from my rural home to geelong to study i would be supported with youth allowance. I cannot believe that these new changes can even be considered to be changed in the middle of our gap year, without warning. It makes no sense. This will impact me and my parents greatly as i have a brother attending uni next year also and its going to be a struggle for my parents to support both of us. I cannot fix this by taking another yr off and achieving youth allowance in 2011 as i cannot defer my course for 2 years. I just scrapped into my course by recieving an enterscore of 76.6 with was the cutoff number for my course, so applying again in 2011 i may not get it. I wish that you could stop and think about the year 12 graduates from 2008 who without warning are getting there plans and dreams for there futures ripped out from under them. This is disadvantaging the future of our country if teenagers now cannot go to uni and get the education they deserve. I am someone who is hungry to learn and day by day nearing closer to my course at deakin in geelong i am excited, but now i feel such anger and i cant even explain how unfair i find the new rules being inforced in the middle of our gap year. Please step back and take a long look at this from our point of view, parents point of view, parents who have not 1 but 2 kids going to uni next year, there point of view. This is an extra struggle for an aussie family that is not wanted or needed. Listen to the community, we need your help.

thanks for your time
-Sarah