

I am a mother of 3 children, of which my eldest Kelly finished her HSC last year at Grafton High School. She deferred her uni studies for 12 months to enable her to work and assist with her tertiary studies. During her school years she also worked part time at Video Ezy Grafton to supplement her income and save for future tertiary studies. She moved to Brisbane to obtain employment and has been living independently since December 2008.

The changes announced in the budget severely effect country children like Kelly who have no option but to move away from home to complete tertiary studies. This is an extremely costly exercise that city children do not even have to consider. Rural students are disadvantaged geographically and financially.

If the government is serious about getting our children educated through tertiary studies, they should be thinking outside the square and assisting rural students, by enhancing the Youth Allowance Scheme not making it more difficult for students like Kelly.

Yours Sincerely
Karen Napper