

Students who are forced to live away from home to attend university should not be disadvantaged by changes to Youth Allowance because too many city kids were working their gap year, becoming entitled to Youth Allowance, and then still living at home.

University courses can be deferred for one year. It is being suggested that students should work for 30 hours a week for 18 months to be eligible for Youth Allowance. Therefore how do they defer their studies long enough to work for 18 months.

Youth Allowance should continue to be available to students who work for a "gap year" between the HSC and attending University

Solution: To attain "independent" status and become eligible for Youth Allowance, continue to earn a certain amount in the 12 months between HSC and commencing university **AND prove that you are required to live away from home to attend university (eg 4 hours away, 6 hours away etc)**. That way kids who have the advantage of living at home while attending university.

I trust the Government will see sense and not disadvantage country students. Country students are likely to graduate and return to the country to practise their profession.

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