

I wish to lodge my objection to the proposed changes to the current Youth Allowance qualification. Having a son who is currently on a gap year, a decision made with the information at hand, it is very disappointing to think he may not be able to attend university next year.

As we live in a rural community with no access to University education when staying at home, he is compelled to leave home. The only University he can attend to do his chosen course, Naturopathy, is the Southern Cross University in Lismore. We live in Young. There is no way he can commute. As a family we would be unable to support him financially to cover his costs of rent, food, etc.

My son has certainly struggled to finish the HSC and gain entry to University. It would be devastating to see this young man fall at the last hurdle. After years of illness and missing school he put in the hard yards to finish year 12 and qualify for Naturopathy. I am so very proud of him, I never thought he would attend uni. He wants to study Naturopathy to help others like himself.

Living in Young it is almost impossible to gain 30 hours each week of work. Especially straight from school with no additional qualifications.

Please reconsider the decision made. Young men and women have already made decisions based on the existing system and it seems un-Australian to do this to both them and their families. We certainly cannot send him to Uni without financial support from the federal government.

Regards

Judith Ross