

Dear Sir/Madam,

Without going into our financial circumstances, we are farmers in the South West of Western Australia and I also have a part time job in "town" to supplement our income. We are the parents of twin girls currently in Year 12 at a private Catholic school in Perth (they are boarders). We chose to send them to a good boarding school to give them the best chance at success at their TER and hopefully gain entry to a university into a course of their choice. We are now at a loss as to how we are going to afford to fund their university education.

We also have a 14 year old boy we hoped to also privately educate at a boarding school in Perth. We are faced with the prospect of having 3 children in Perth completing their education. We conservatively estimate it will cost us \$60,000.00 per year. My husband and I, having given plenty of thought to the situation, are now of the view it would be economically sensible for me to move to Perth to live with our daughters, where I can hopefully earn a better income, and for my husband to continue farming our property. We can't believe this would be the best outcome for us. How can this be the best situation for a family of 5?

Under the proposed changes to the Youth Allowance, my daughters still would not be eligible as our combined income exceeds the cut off amount (as would most people's). We fail to see how all these young people will find employment for 18 months. There just AREN'T the jobs in rural areas for young, unskilled workers in the current economic environment.

I am just one of many people who are frustrated and at a loss with the proposed changes. If the proposed changes go through, our unemployment rates are going to sky rocket and many young people with the wherewithall for further educating will flounder.

Please feel free to publish this email.

Julie Maiolo