

Dear Sir,

How do you propose that my 2 daughters will get to go to uni now that you are proposing these Youth Allowance changes? These changes mean that even less country students will be able to go to Uni now. Already they are under-represented in comparison to their city counterparts. They have to leave home and relocate 450 kms away, find a place to live, cook, clean and generally look after themselves (not a bad thing at 18), but at what cost? I wonder where that \$15,000 will come from? (This is what my friends say it costs for a student to support themselves for one year at Uni.) Their city cousins have the option to stay at home and receive all that emotional and financial support which make it easy to manage. And the proposal to work 30 hours a week to support themselves whilst at uni is ridiculous. How can they work almost fulltime and complete a double degree in law and science, as my first daughter is dreaming of? She worked hard at high school, got a TER score of 99, took a year off to make her \$19,000 by working at a potato factory, and now is told the rules are changed. To qualify she will now have to work 30 hours a week, and somehow try to fit the huge load of a double degree in. I wonder what sort of results she can dream of with this huge pressure? If we lived in the city, she could stay at home and it would all be very possible.

Come on, give the country students a fair go. They are rearing to contribute to our world at their full potential. Can our country afford to miss out on these students reaching their potential?

If these changes are passed, then my vote for the Rudd government is gone, as with many, many others. Julia Gillard's spin on this issue makes me cringe every time she tries to sweep it under the carpet with her uninterruptible babble.

Yours Sincerely,

Merry Dickins