



Linking Industry with Education



CONNECT TO YOUR FUTURE
Career Advice Australia

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WSMLLEN/LCP Newsletter No 8

29th May 2009

Budget Changes to Youth Allowance

Income test rises from \$32,800 to \$45559

New start up scholarship of \$2254

Relocation scholarships of \$4,000

Progressive increase in the personal income test threshold from \$236 to \$400

While these changes are welcome the budget does little to alleviate the disadvantages experienced by rural students and their families seeking a tertiary education.

Changes to the independence test means students may need to look beyond their local communities, where work is seasonal and part time, to fulfil the 30 hours per week requirement.

While city students tend to live and study from home rural students incur relocation, living and rental accommodation at a cost of around \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year.

Cost of travel, relocation and accommodation have contributed to the rise in the rate of deferrals for rural students which are already 2.5 times greater than the average.

Comments from student deferrers:

Dionne Isbel - Working in her gap year at Horsham College says "the unexpected changes have put extra financial burden on my family".

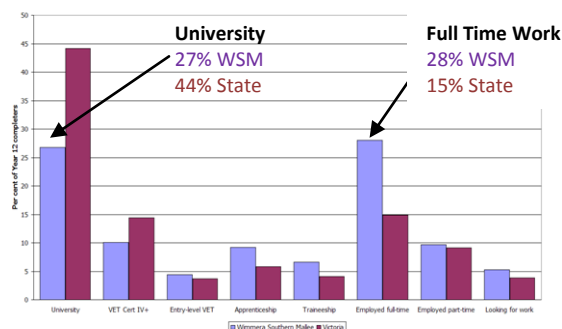
Kendra Harrison – Also working in her gap year with 3 jobs says the retrospectivity "pulls the rug out from under study plans made 3 years ago"

Ben Kirsopp - Horsham College, says "It's obvious the policy is the brainchild of city politicians unaware of the needs of country families".

Chris Wallis – Pathways Coordinator at Horsham College says "The change in rules "mid-stream" has created a great deal of anxiety for our deferring students and their families." [More](#)

The [On Track DEECD 2008 Survey of the Grampians Region](#) compared to the rest of Victoria graph shown below offers a clear picture of WSM students with lower University rates and higher full time employment rates.

Destinations of Year 12 completers, Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN



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AICER

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Victoria

Parents and students who wish to discuss any aspects of the budget relating to Youth Allowances may contact their Federal MPs at Steve.Gibbons.MP@aph.gov.au, catherine.king.mp@aph.gov.au or j.forrest.mp@aph.gov.au

Upcoming Events:

Employability Skills Workshops.

June 5 - Warracknabeal Secondary College.

June 11 – Kaniva College

Next Edition:

June 12 - Careers Development Week

What can we do we do for you?

Contact us on 0353810122