

BILL SYKES MP

Member for Benalla District

"Working for you"



The Editor
As Addressed

Youth Allowance opposition continues

Thankyou to the many people who have signed petitions and contacted my office in recent weeks regarding the impact on their family and friends of the proposed Rudd Government changes to Youth Allowance.

To date my Nationals colleagues and I have presented petitions to State Parliament with **over 3,200** signatures and thousands more to come. I know many more petitions will be sent into my office over the coming weeks.

My Liberal-National Coalition colleagues and I have raised the Youth Allowance issue in Parliament **over 40** times during the last month.

Disappointingly the Brumby Government have remained silent on the issue. We will however continue to put pressure on the Brumby Government **to stand up for country students** and to lobby their Federal counterparts to have the proposed changes to youth allowance withdrawn.

The Federal Opposition and Greens have also initiated a Senate Inquiry into proposed Youth Allowance changes. **The inquiry will provide an assessment of the adequacy of Government measures to provide equitable access to secondary and post-secondary education opportunities to students from rural and regional communities attending metropolitan institutions.**

This is only the start. I encourage you to continue the wave of opposition to proposed Youth Allowances changes by:

- seeking further signatures for the petition from friends and family and forwarding them to my office (available at www.billsykes.com.au or phone 5762 2100);
- writing to Victorian Minister for Skills & Workforce Participation, Hon. Jacinta Allan and/or Federal Minister for Education, The Hon. Julia Gillard;
- preparing a submission by August 7 for the Senate Inquiry.

Youth Allowance changes are detrimental country students currently in a gap year and to those wanting a tertiary education in the future. Regardless of whether or not you are aspiring to a tertiary education, a parent, grandparents or friend I am sure you will understand the importance of standing up against these changes. Together we must ensure that the voices of rural Victorians are heard by the Brumby and Rudd Government.

Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Sykes".

Bill Sykes MP
Member for Benalla