



Media Release

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Marino Backs Amendments to Youth Allowance

Nola Marino, Federal Member for Forrest today backed the Coalition's stance to amend the retrospective changes to Youth Allowance to ensure that students currently undertaking their gap year will still receive Youth Allowance in 2010.

"The Rudd Government doesn't seem to understand that students have made decision to defer study for a year in good faith, relying on advice from their schools' course advisers, Centrelink officials, and other information from the Government," Nola Marino said.

Nola Marino voiced her concerns in Federal Parliament last week, for South West families affected by the changes as the Rudd Government continues to treat regional Australians as second class citizens.

"We are opposed to retrospective changes to legislation and will seek to fix this discrepancy by amending the starting date of the new workforce participation criteria from 1 January 2010 to 1 January 2011," she said.

In addition the Coalition will propose a new 'Rural and Regional Scholarship' program that will assist rural and regional students who do not have the luxury of being able to stay home with their parents while attending University, and who must move away to pursue their higher education.

"We will need the continuing support of students and parents to convince the Government and minor parties to see reason on this. I urge everyone concerned about these changes to contact me and add their comments to www.educationforaustralia.com.au," said Nola Marino MP.

Coalition Members presented a 6500 signature petition, collected in ten days from around Australia, in Federal Parliament last Thursday opposing the proposed changes. A picture has been attached.

Nola can be contacted toll free on 1300 301 862, via email at nola.marino.mp@aph.gov.au or via website at www.nolamarino.com.au.

A copy of both her speeches in relation to Youth Allowance can be found at Nola's website www.nolamarino.com.au > news room> speeches.

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