



Media Release

Date: 30 June 2009

Marino hosts Youth Allowance Forum with Turnbull in the South West

Nola Marino MP, Federal Member for Forrest, will host a Youth Allowance Forum with Malcolm Turnbull, Leader of the Opposition, on Monday 6 July 2009 at St Augustine's Church in Mangles St, Bunbury.

Concerned parents, students and current gap year students will be in attendance to voice their deep concerns about the impact the proposed changes will have on existing and future higher education opportunities for regional students from the South West.

"This will be a great opportunity for Malcolm Turnbull to hear first hand the detrimental affect the proposed changes will have on regional students and their opportunity to access a higher education. Parents have contacted my office openly stating that should these changes occur, they will not be able to financially support their child or other children in the family to attend university in Perth," said Nola Marino MP.

Nola stated that in the current economic climate, the proposed new criteria of finding 30 hours of work per week for 18 months out of two years will be an extremely difficult task for a young person in the South West. Small towns are sometimes unable to offer regular work on a week to week basis. Seasonal work and peak tourism periods are often when the work is available. The proposed changes seriously disadvantage regional and rural students.

Nola spoke in Federal Parliament in Canberra again on Youth Allowance last week, outlining the impact these changes will have on the South West and the different barriers regional students face compared to their city counterparts. (Speech attached)

The forum will commence at 10:30am sharp and conclude at 11:30am.

Ends