



Media Release

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No Definitive Answers from the Government for South West Students

In spite of strong representation from Nola Marino MP, Federal Member for Forrest, Malcolm Turnbull MP, the Leader of Opposition, students from the South West have been given no clear direction by the Rudd Government about proposed changes to Youth Allowance and its affect on extensions to current 12 month university deferrals.

“Malcolm Turnbull and I listened to the valid and legitimate concerns of South West students who have deferred for 2009 wanting to take up their positions at University in 2010. Due to the proposed changes to Youth Allowance many will not be able to afford to begin in 2010, therefore needing an extension on their current 12 month deferral,” said Nola Marino MP.

Mr Turnbull and I wrote to the Rudd Government seeking urgent advice on what it intended to do to help rural and regional students who are unsure about their university deferrals or capacity to begin their University studies. The late response was less than encouraging.

“I met with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia last week and was advised that UWA will allow current gap year students to continue their deferment through 2010.

I have received written confirmation from all four other universities in WA, Curtin, Murdoch, Notre Dame and ECU that they will also allow for an extension on a 12 month deferral. I advise all concerned students to contact their universities directly as conditions of deferment apply,” stated Nola Marino MP.

“I will continue to seek answers from the Government about the proposed changes and the significant affects they WILL have on students, parents and families in the South West. The Government has failed to provide certainty for students.”

Visit Nola’s website for further information about the proposed Youth Allowance changes www.nolamarino.com.au.

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