



**Media Release**  
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## **No WA Students Included in Youth Allowance Meeting**

Nola Marino MP, Federal Member for Forrest, is disappointed that the Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, held a roundtable meeting with gap year students in Canberra on Monday that did not include students from the South West.

“The Minister met with gap year students and Members of Parliament from six Labor Electorates and one independent. There was no representation from Western Australia at all and only 3 of the 7 electorates represented were rural electorates,” stated Nola Marino MP.

“How can gap year students concerns be represented from ‘*around Australia*’ as claimed when the Minister has hand-picked the attendees from marginal electorates?”

“The Minister promised to consider the issues raised and ‘think about it’ which only continues the uncertainty for South West students and families where time is critical when trying to plan for 2010.

“Given the pressure that myself, students and families have been applying from day one, through speeches in Parliament, a petition, and countless emails and letters from those affected from the region, that the Minister chose not to include any students from the South West in her roundtable”, said Nola Marino.

“The Coalition is confident the Minister will back down and push back the implementation date of the proposed legislation to 1 January 2011, which is an amendment the Coalition put forward,” said Nola Marino.

“The Minister should have included South West students in her round table. Ms Gillard should back down and take responsibility for her policy,” states Nola Marino.

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