Inquiry into Geographical Differences in the Rate in which Victorian Students Participate in Higher Education

Online Submission

12/05/08

Mrs Jennifer Coombs, Parent, Alexandra

I have a child that commenced Tertiary Studies this year at Charles Sturt University (Albury Campus) a two and half hour drive from home. We have 2 other children still at home who are both in Secondary College. The financial burden on the family income is very trying to say the least. Our daughter works part time for her petrol money and incidentals, my husband and myself support her with rent $130 per week, food $40 per week, we also freeze meals for her take back when she comes home for a visit and internet $30 a month these are must pay items on top of that there are books, print credit, internet credit etc….

No matter what University was chosen our daughter would have to live away from home as we live in the north east of the state in a country town. We have encouraged or children to pursue their dreams and career. We cannot now, because of the financial side of things discourage them. Next year our second child will be applying for University placement, again she will have to move away from home and we will give her the same amount of support as we have done for eldest child. Our children do not qualify for any financial help as we apparently earn too much. Even if our children could get living away from allowance that would be a help. To get financial support they need to earn 18,000 dollars in 18 months an enormous task for a uni student, particularly if they intend to do well in their studies.