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

Online Submission

12/04/08

Mrs Kathryn Thompson, Parent, Cabarita

I have two teenage daughters who wish to go to university. Both my husband and I work (& I am tertiary educated), but we cannot afford to send our daughters to university (if they choose to do a course that is only available in our capital cities). The cost involved with living away from home (e.g. $14,000 to live on campus at Melbourne Uni, travel etc.) is more than we can afford. In contrast, students who can continue to live at home and attend uni have a distinct financial advantage. The only way my children will be able to go to uni following VCE is to choose a course in our local area (& these are very limited) or they will have to have a gap year (to be eligible for Centrelink payments). My daughters older brother was very disillusioned when this was explained to him & he subsequently decided to leave school for an apprenticeship. It would be helpful if the government could subsidise rural students for the added financial costs they face.