



Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

Media Release

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Sid to host Wynyard gap-year student to meet Education Minister at Youth Allowance roundtable

PROPOSED changes to Youth Allowance will be the main topic on the agenda next Monday when Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom hosts a North-West student in Canberra to meet with Federal Education Minister Julia Gillard.

Wynyard 18-year-old Alan Nicholas will travel to Parliament House on Monday as a special guest of Mr Sidebottom after Minister Gillard this week agreed to host a round table discussion on the proposed changes.

"I have met with a number of current gap-year students and their parents since the announcement of proposed changes to Youth Allowance provisions in the May budget," Mr Sidebottom said.

"The proposed changes to the Youth Allowance scheme will benefit more than 100,000 students across Australia. Changes to the Parental Income Test threshold will mean that many students will no longer be encouraged to take a gap year in order to be eligible for assistance."

Mr Sidebottom has said that the raising of the Parental Income Threshold will mean many more students on the North West Coast in particular, and in Tasmania more generally, will be eligible to receive financial support to continue their higher education.

"I have made no secret about my concern with the proposed timing of these changes, which current gap-year students and their families in my electorate believe will leave them in limbo.

"I have lobbied my Federal colleagues hard to reconsider delaying the introduction of the new provisions so that current gap-year students can commence their university studies in 2010, as planned.

"I have also met personally with Minister Gillard to represent the concerns of these students on a number of occasions."

The round table will also include the Chair of Universities Australia, Professor Peter Coaldrake, President of the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations, Nigel Palmer and the National Union of Students National President, David Burrow.

Minister Gillard will also meet with other students and MPs from regional electorates across Australia.

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