



Sid Sidebottom MP ...for a fair go
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BRADDON

MEDIA RELEASE

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Youth Allowance reform benefits more North West students

An estimated extra 249 students in the region will benefit financially from recent changes to the Youth Allowance legislation, said Sid Sidebottom MP for Braddon.

From 1st January, eligible students across Braddon are set to receive up to \$388.70 a fortnight in independent Youth Allowance payments and, in recognition that students from regional areas also experience higher costs to relocate for study the value of the Relocation Scholarship has increased for students who qualify.

The reforms to Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY and Relocation Scholarships are a big win for those previously included in an inner regional area, namely parts of Latrobe and Devonport, and for all those students on the North West and West Coasts and King Island who have to leave home to study.

‘The distinction between inner regional students (Latrobe and Devonport) and outer regional (the rest of the North West and West Coasts) in relation to accessing independent Youth Allowance has been eliminated,’ Mr Sidebottom said.

‘As a result of our changes, students from inner regional areas are now able to access independent Youth Allowance under exactly the same rules that apply to students from Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote areas.’

The Government is also going to support regional students who have to move away from home to study by increasing the overall value of the Relocation Scholarship for eligible students from regional areas such as the North West and West Coasts.

Mr Sidebottom said the scholarships were introduced in 2010 and from January this year, eligible regional students from the region will receive an increased **Relocation Scholarship** of:

- \$4000 for the first year of study,
- \$2000 for each of the second and third years, and
- \$1000 for any subsequent years.

Details of the changes to Youth Allowance are available at www.deewr.gov.au/youthallowance

Media enquires: Shane Broad 0400 688 049