



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

MEDIA RELEASE

18 November 2009

Coalition denies 381 Braddon students scholarships in 2010

The Coalition had ignored the pleadings of the entire Higher Education sector and student groups and denied potentially hundreds of local students the opportunity to afford to go to University says the Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom.

He said an estimated 381 eligible students in Braddon would miss out on new scholarships because of the vote by the Coalition in the Senate.

Cross-bench senators joined with the Liberal and National parties to effectively stop the Government's legislation which would have seen more than 150 000 students nationwide receive start-up scholarships worth \$2254 in 2010.

In addition, 21 000 commonwealth scholarships will not be paid to new students in 2010 as the Coalition voted to remove them earlier this year.

Coalition amendments would cost about \$1 billion while keeping a system that sees students with parental incomes over \$300 000 a year eligible to receive Youth Allowance.

"Students from so many more families in our region would have been eligible for youth allowance and the new scholarships because of the increased income thresholds," Mr Sidebottom said.

"These were families that really need this support, and now they may have to look at other options."

Without the legislation:

- More than **150 000 students will now not receive a \$2 254 start-up scholarship** in 2010.
- More than **100 000 will get less or no Youth Allowance in 2010.**
- Students who choose to move to study will **not be eligible for a \$4000 start-up scholarship** in 2010.
- Students with **very high parental incomes will continue to be eligible to receive youth allowance,**
- The **parental income test will remain at \$32 800 rather than \$44 165** so that students with parents earning more than this will continue to lose Youth Allowance
- The **age of independence will remain at 25 rather than reduce to 22** by 2012.

FOR MORE INFORMATION – Luke Sayer (03) 6431 1333