

MEDIA RELEASE



The Hon **David Hawker** MP
Federal Member for Wannon



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LABOR SCARE CAMPAIGN ON YOUTH ALLOWANCE ALL SPIN

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard's scare campaign on Youth Allowance in Western Victoria is all spin, Federal Member for Wannon David Hawker said today.

"Under the Coalition's amendments to Youth Allowance, all students will be better off and no student will have their weekly income cut," Mr Hawker said.

"Ms Gillard is attempting to cover up the fact that under the Rudd Government's Youth Allowance changes thousands of students beginning their year twelve exams today will lose their eligibility to qualify under the current gap year provisions, particularly those in rural and regional areas.

"Many more students currently in their gap year will have the rug pulled out from under their feet because of the retrospectivity of the changes.

"The Coalition is seeking to amend the legislation and protect these students into the future. Our website www.educationforaustralia.com.au is full of the concerns of young people and parents worried about youth allowance changes.

"The Rudd Government has ignored these concerns, and while doing a partial back flip in August to help some regional youth currently doing a gap year, their younger brothers and sisters will simply not be able to afford to attend University," Mr Hawker said.

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