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MEDIA RELEASE

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Letter to the Editor – Youth Allowance mess created by Labor Government’s intransigence

Gaynor Crowden (Adv., Dec. 21) appears to have been given the Labor spin on the Rudd Government’s proposed changes to Youth Allowance.

The reality is a mess, but it is a mess of the Government’s own making, caused by its intransigence and an unreasonable approach that would have advantaged one group of students while disadvantaging another.

The changes would have ended the university dreams of thousands of young Australians who took gap years in good faith on the advice of Centrelink officers and school career advisers.

Many are North-West Coasters who have their hearts set on becoming our next generation of doctors, lawyers and teachers.

In all fairness, how could we support moving the goal posts and disadvantaging these young people?

The Liberals proposed amendments in Parliament to allow the Bill to pass, including separating out the scholarships so that they could be offered in 2010.

But, in spite of our willingness to negotiate to achieve the best outcome, Labor stubbornly refused to compromise and must alone take responsibility for the mess left behind.

Ends

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