Victor Ayers

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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Submission to the Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business-Penalty Rates Exemption) Bill 2012

I am a permanent employee, working as a head reserve stock hand, currently earning around $762.00 gros per week.

I am 52 years of age with 2 grown up kids living in a granny flat in Sydney's outer west driving a 93 ford laser to and from work as it is the best way to get there for my 5 am start.

If penalty rates were abolished... At present I work a split week and have two single days off and get penalty rates of time and 1/2 for Sunday compared to other industries that get double time, by removing penalty rates it would not be worth my time going to work on Sunday and it would reduce my take home pay making it harder for me to make ends meet.

My weekends are important to me because...Having Saturday off gives me time to spend with my family and having Wednesday off allows me to have time to my self and to do the things I like to do.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. The reason why I believe penalty rates should be retained is that it gives people more disposable income that allows people to be able to buy more goods and services thus making more profits for companies as well as more revenue for governments both State and Federal through direct tax as well as indirect tax.

I hope that the committee remembers the global meltdown and how we in this country avoided going into rescission like so many others did and are still trying to recover, by the government of the time giving to the low and middle class more monies to spend.

The retail industry is one of this country's biggest employers and the workers are some of the lowest paid, with out penalty rates in this industry you would be reducing the ability of thousands to be able to survive thus adding to the burden to our economy. The more monies the low to middle income earners get the more they can spend, pay bills and in general keep business open, with out them all you are doing is giving the CEO's and board members more monies.

Submitted by
Victor Ayers
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