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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 Sales assistant, currently earning around 18 per hour.

I just finished studying, and I am about to get married. We have a mortgage.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would not work weekends. The only thing that attracts people is the pay incentive. I would pick my personal happiness over my work and working in retail there is little incentive to work a weekend unless there is a pay incentive.

I feel we as a society could never go back to a simpler time and healthier perspective if we remove the concept of the weekend. The only people that are being hurt are people who work in retail and hospitality. In higher income jobs the weekly income more than

makes up for working weekend.s The argument is that people do not mind working weekends but they do not mind because they get more money. I am required to work every second sat and I would not do it without penalty rates my life, leisure and partner is much more important.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates because you will be surprised how quickly available workers will dry up. Also what it will do to society as a whole. Weekend work only effects certain workers and those who are in low income jobs should not be penalised or forced to work weekends with no benefits.

Submitted by
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