Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

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

I am a permanent employee, working as a Food Service manager, currently earning around $36 per hour.

I have a young family which I rarely see due to working commitments.

If penalty rates were abolished I would lose approximately $30k annually. This would greatlty affect my mortgage repayments and my quality of life as well as my family being penaliswed again for no compensation.Not only myself will miss out but my staff have told me when/if the penalty rates are abolished then they no longer will work on weekends and I don't blame them.

My weekends are important to me because I do believe the country needs people to keep it running whilst the other side have a rest. I would love to spend more time with

my kids, watch them play soccer, go to swimming lessons, school functions, member of P&C etc. but hey we sacrifice all of this to put food on the table and pay the bills.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates because all these jobs we are talking about are mostly the lowest paid workers. I have worked in the hospitality industry for over 24 years. I wouldn't know what it's like to have a Mon-Fri 9-5 job. The divide from rich to poor is getting greater. Why pick on the most vulnerable of our society when we should be looking after them. I would like to know has Senator Xenophon ever wondered if the person whom serves him his chai latte on a weekend has a family which they would rather be with at that particular time. I'm disgusted how so out of touch these people are from the real world.

Submitted by
Michele Scarcella
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