

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

To whom it may concern,

I think it is an absolute insult for anyone to be standing up and proclaim that weekends are out-dated. It goes against all the great work that the government has done over the last 20 years in the field of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS).

For years now we have been told that balancing work and personal life is crucial for our health, both mental and physical. Now you are telling us that all that is not true. That we should sacrifice more of our personal time and get less reward for it, why? There are several reasons for choosing to work on weekends, and financial reward is certainly on top of the list. Take away the incentive, and people will stop working those hours. Whether you have a family and are sacrificing spending time with them, or whether you don't have a family and are sacrificing social interaction time with your peers.

And what about people like myself who are fortunate enough not to have to work on weekends. I don't want to give up my weekend life style. I love going out for a Sunday brunch, and I love knowing that the young people working at the cafes are happy to be there and are getting fair rewards. I do not want to feel guilty knowing that those young people are getting ripped off. Nor do I want to adapt a culture whereby people rely on tips, leave all that nonsense to the Americans.

Taking away weekends penalties is a real step backwards. Employers will also struggle to find the people willing to work those hours when they don't get paid appropriately. And then what... the hourly rate simply goes up and we all loose because a business' overheads costs are increased.

I believe this is a knee jerk reaction and an idea that will create more trouble than not. Please abolish this idea.

Thank you

Submitted by

Matan Lavi

Tuesday 18th of September 2012