Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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Parliament House

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 intergrated rating, currently earning around 90000 per year.

I am a 27 year old father of one, my partner is a stay at home mum who is pregnant with our second child. We have a mortgage and live in a working class suburb. I am currently undertaking a trainee-ship which will qualify me as a Intergrated Rating. I have about three months left until my training time is finished.

If penalty rates were abolished...
A) there would be no incentive to work these shifts. These are the shifts that receive the extra money for the inconvenience they cause the people who work them. I used to work afternoon shift at my previous job as i wanted to save for a house and it was a 5 dollar hourly increase but i lost a huge part of my social life at the time. If not for the

extra money there would have been no reason to work those abnormal hours. B) The loss of income. After a while the extra money you earn becomes part of your life style it might mean the difference in keep food on the table and the electricity on to going cold and hungry in the dark.

My weekends are important to me because... they are a chance to relax and charge the batteries, spend time with the family or friends and get the things i need time for done without having to look at the clock.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates for the people struggling to make ends meat, for the people who need the extra money to cover their expenses of day to day living, for the people trying to get a foot up and save for their future, for the parents and family members who have sacrificed their time to put the interest of their families before their own like a roof over their heads and food on the table. I know about losing that time from working shift work and working away but my families welfare and interest take precidence over my desire to be with them. I am the only income in my house and although i earn good money i sacrifice a lot for it. We are in the day and age where prices keep soaring and inflation increases daily shouldn't wages be coming up to meet the cost of living and not sacrificed for companies so they can save a few bucks and increase their share portfolios leaving the rest of us in the dark.

Submitted by
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