Benjamin Newman

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

PO Box 6100

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 casual employee, working as a gym instructor, currently earning around 18 per hour.

I have a partner, two dogs, weekly rent of $750.00, weekly car repayments of $140.00, monthly comprehensive car insurance, phone and electricity bills, and living expenses.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would be cleaning up people's sweat at the gym, scrubbing the toilets, and working two jobs to make ends meet with little compensation on a Sunday, instead of spending time at home with my loved ones - the weekend rates are already quite poor, but this legislation takes advantage of workers who need the penalty rates.

My weekends are important to me because it is hard to find a work/lifestyle balance -

Australians are working more, longer, and for less pay RIGHT NOW...I think if Senator Xenophobe and all the other politicians had to work two jobs and work on the weekend instead of spending time with their loved ones, playing sports, enjoying hobies or even finding time to clean their house, they would probably appreciate that weekend penalty rates compensate people who dont actually get to enjoy a "weekend" at all.
You can pass the bill just as soon as politicians earn the same pay rate I work for...(maybe then they will stop interfering in people's lives, and actually understand what we are all going through)...

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Stop treating working Australians like SLAVES...

Submitted by
Benjamin Newman
Tuesday 25th of September 2012