

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 permanent employee, working as a retail assistant, currently earning around \$19 per hour.

i have a morage, bills to pay, a grown daughter and a husband. i work 3pm to midnight. 5 days a week. we work to pay the bills, not because we want to, we dont have a choice.

If penalty rates were abolished... it would affect the people i work with a lot of them are single mums who can only do weekends and get basic shifts and hours, it would also affect the people i work with who leave there familys to do nightfill. my own family would be affected if my husband couldnt pickup that odd day of overtime to pay those costs of carbon tax on the increasing power bills.

My weekends are important to me because...for over ten years i could never attend family functions and i missed so much as the people i would of been with have since passed away. i now value my weekends as my husband also works 5 days a week and he works days i do nights . so we see each other for less than 1 hour a day, at tea time, so on weekends i spend time with my husband and catch up with my daughter...and her family.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. as it benefits both the retail industry and the worker. with the rates there it encourages workers to work to obtain those few dollars more, and thats all it is a few dollars more, these people are happy to work and that vibe goes through the shop, happy workers mean happy customers and happy customers come back. take away that extra few dollars and take away the incentive, aust is becomming just like america and unless your well off thats not a place to be. please put your self in the shoes of low income workers like ourself before you make any more rash decisions.

Submitted by

patricia roberts

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