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 engine room operator(boilers, refrigeration, air compressors, water treatment and other services., currently earning around 110,000 per year.

49 yo. Married to carefree mother of 4 sons, same job for 24 years, same home same 24/7 roster.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would loose 40% of my income and would rather retire early or go on the dole than be out of sync with the world around me.

My weekends are important to me because... For 22 years I have worked half of my weekends so I can get the higher income to pay more mortgage and so my wife could be available to look after our family. My wife gave up work and our sons soccer in the

early 90's because we couldn't meet half of our commitments with both of us working. Since then all four of our sons have learned to ride horses at pony club of which my wife is an active member.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. If you think that there is a time to work, a time to rest, a time to pray and a time to have fun then you will penalise those that think that their financial interests are more important than my family's interests. If you think that work should be started and finished at any time of the day, night or weekend then show us your commitment and start the parliamentary working week at 2am on saturday morning. Over many years of doing 7 day continuous shift work I have found that office workers and saleried bosses are the biggest IDIOTS when it comes to putting day and night shifts on a calendar because it looks nice to them on paper but they don't have to live it. I have chosen this life style because it has worked for me but if I got less money for the effort then I would of prefered a Mon to Fri day worker job. Finally, forget about daylight saving for Queensland and make Sunday a day of rest by making all workers to be paid quadruple time for the whole day and night. DO YOU REALLY WANT SUNDAY TO BE NO DIFFERENT FROM TUESDAY OR THURSDAY? Then get rid of the names for the days and call them Day1, Day2 etc with the first Day1 starting on December the 24th.

Submitted by
mel rushby
Thursday 13th of September 2012