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 employee, working as a Research Officer, currently earning around $35 per hour.

I am semi-retired with two young adult children.

If penalty rates were abolished our young adults and their friends who have part-time jobs to get them through university will have their income significantly reduced.

My weekends are important to me because this is the only time my wife is not working and when we can get together with our extended family.

In my opinion there is no actual evidence that small businesses are closing because of penalty rates. I do not believe the 'hype' from owners and associations that this is the

case, as it is impossible to know the real reason some may be staying closed. It certainly is not our experience in the Bunbury area. The real reason is more likely that most owners of small businesses, who work very long hours during the week, need at least Sundays for their own family and recreation. Senator Xenophon was unable to provide me with the sort of evidence to support his contention that many of them are forced to stay closed on weekends because of penalty rates. I would expect the Senate committee to attempt to find such evidence, rather than just question people, or accepting statements from business associations. There is a definite anti-government feeling in the business community at present and it converts into a need to join such 'crusades' against fairness for empoyees. Therefore I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.

Submitted by
Roy Scaife
Thursday 13th of September 2012