Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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 bookbinder and Finisher, currently earning around 26.00 per hour.

Hi ,
Yes I can confirm that I do have a very large mortgage and it's a struggle now . Losing penalty rates would not be of any benefit to me in any form . I have work hard all my life for very little money I have been loyal to my employer , but with very little recognition , It's unfortunate but this is what happens to one when they do the right thing you think that you are being look after but in reality you are just a number calculated into the bottom line of their costs so truth is most companies don't want to give you anything because you just add to the bottom line costs .

If penalty rates were abolished... it would affect me greatly as these rates are the only

thing that balances the income out when I and my fellow work colleagues recieve overtime payments, through the week and on weekends or shift penalties. I could not survive without these rates to supplement my income it would be a negative effect on me and my family.

My weekends are important to me because...mostly it's the only time that I get a chance to spend time with my family and friends and maybe do those home maintenance task that so offen get put off because of no time and then maybe find time to just have a rest.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.
It's my belief that if penalty rates were removed not only would it have serious consequences on me personaly but would serious impact on the economy at large and this would not be in the best interest for anyone including the employers , this model has not worked anywhere else in the world with any positive out comes just look overseas in other countries who have adopted these types of employment methods not only are they unfair but eventually they destroy social communities impact negatively on family life when people are forced to work on weekend's which normally would be spent with family and friends , Yes if someone is prepare to give up their precious time with family then they justly should be compensate for giving such precious time that can never be regained ,So I say " NO " to a bolishing penalty rates and in fact it's actually been years since receiving a what little pay rise we receive yet these compaines still manage to expand and prosper I feel that this is yet another atempt to increase the bottom line of business at the expense of the employe. So I aplead to the committee to please abolish this bill as this would only fuel already difficult times and cause much heartache not only with my own family but with the greater community at large .

Yours Faithfully

Peter Cooke.

Submitted by

Peter Cooke

Monday 17th of September 2012