

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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Submission to the Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business-Penalty Rates Exemption) Bill 2012

I am a casual employee not working in the hospitality or retail industry. HOWEVER, my employer has me on piece work and in order to make enough to survive I must routinely work weekends. I get no extra compensation for this work. Taking away penalty rates will benefit no one in the long term. It may help struggling uni students to get a few shifts here and there but it will turn retail and hospitality jobs into jobs not worth having because people can't live on the wages, and thereby will add to the growing army of working poor. And while it currently has restrictions, such as when smaller employees have an employee work more than 10 hours a day or if an employee works over a 38 hour week, guess what? 10 hours a day will turn into two shifts for two people, a 38 hour week will no longer exist and nobody can live on the wages they will get from such a McJob. And also it won't stop there. Businesses never tire of hammering for wages to be cut in one way or another and soon it will be open slather for businesses big and small to make workers work for next to nothing

whenever it pleases the business. It makes me sick to see Australia heading so far down America's anti-worker path. This is patently a slippery slope on that road.

Submitted by

Pat Francis

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