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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, working as a security officer, currently earning around 25 per hour.

I have been working for the same company for the past 9 years, I am married with 2 children 2 and 4 we are a single income family but we are still happy, up until June this year I have been working 60 hours per week for the past 7 years but about June our shifts went from 10 to 12 hour shifts,1800 to 0600 and since that time I had been instructed that due to OHS I could no longer work the hours and was now restricted to 50 hour or less, I do have a mortgage and all the usual bills and expenses that most people have.

If penalty rates were abolished...things for our family would become difficult, I am not afraid to work and pay my share of taxes and contribute to charity when we can, I work

mostly at night from 1800 to 0600 , I do work these unsocial hours when most people are sleeping as little extra penalty rates give us is the difference between having our bills paid in time and being able to give our children a good education with the alternative being late payments for bills possible defaults . There is no smoking or alcohol drinking in our family we do not live extravagantly but do the best we can to be productive members of the community give our children as good an education as we can to also give them the opportunity to a productive life that they might otherwise might not have

My weekends My Christmas Easter and every other public holiday we are blessed with in this country are vitally important to me as they give us as a family a chance to share quality time together however still I have worked a lot of them even up until 2011 have worked every Christmas since 2003 I still have had 3 or 4 hours with them but the bills still have to get paid, and their future is the most important so I do what I can to try and give them a chance at a good one.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. because without them all the hard work and sacrifices that people make for a chance at a better future would be done in vein. If because of penalty pates an employer is only making a 75 per cent net profit instead of a 95 per cent still a net profit and shouldn't the people giving them the means to make that 75 per cent net profit also be rewarded for giving up their time as well.

Submitted by
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Friday 21st of September 2012