Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

PO Box 6100

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 casual employee, working as a ELECTRICIAN, currently earning around 47 flat rate per hour.

I have a wife and 2 young kids, a mortgage, and a near full credit card debt. The costs of living are rising faster than our wages. Our local rates are going up, along with water,electricity, fuel, food, more than our wages. Men and women,mothers and fathers are being forced to spend more and more time working to retain and lead a healthy lifestyle let alone to make ends meet.. This means less time together as a family unit which inevitably leads to personal, social and family problems through stress, anxiety, and other health issues stemming from trying to deal with these new imposed issues of 12hr days, fly in fly out, no overtime and weekend rates.

If penalty rates were abolished it would adversely affect alot of our social structures of

family time on weekend...when the kids aren't at school, sport is played. If we are forced to give up these things then we will have family problems, become unfit and unhealthy and die sooner.

My weekends are important to me because...I can relax and spend time with my family,I can catch up on sleep and rest from working during the week, I can catch up with other family memebers, and friends. I can get involved in some recreation activities, and even COMMUNITY activities.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. For us to sacrifice some family time, normally rest and re-cuperation time, personal well-being time, friendships time by working overtime whether it be during the week or on a weekend...it has to be worthwhile. Otherwise the core fibres of our personal/family and community structures will be inevitably destroyed.....more and more than it is happenning already today.

Submitted by
Daniel Wright
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