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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 employee, working as a ain, currently earning around $19.52 per hour.

i'm a 55yr old, with a mortgage, looking after my parents who are in a nursing home,needing to buy any personal items,(clothes, pay the chemist bills, any medical bills for specialists) look after my grandson (his mum single and works two days aweek).also doing a course at tafe to better my self.

If penalty rates were abolished... the only reason to work weekends is to make ends meet in my life. i prefer not to work, but the penalty rates help me to attend to the things mentioned above.

My weekends are important to me because of quality family time. over the last 25yrs i

have worked weekends, and even an extra job when not working weekends to meet the costs of daily living, not to mention the countles times of special events i have missed over the yrs,(weddings, school functions, sports days, which i will never get that back)

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.the cost of living doesn't go down, and to stop the penalties would put extra strain on families e.g.to buy food, clothes, medical expenses just the daily living expenses, schooling. depression would be on the rise for families because unable to cope with the bills, families leaving their homes unable to pay the mortgage.

Submitted by
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