

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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 permanent employee, working as a GPH, currently earning around \$35 per hour.

Family man, 4 kids and a mortgage. I have changed careers and had been casual for 2 years

If penalty rates were abolished those that must work weekends will question why they are giving up valuable family time that cannot be replaced. Ever. Penalty rates compensate the worker and their families for this massive loss.

Those new to the workforce and/or in low paying jobs need the added incentive of penalty rates to make these jobs attractive.

My weekends are important to me because its the only time I get to spend quality time

with the kids, watch their sport, kick a ball, go to the beach, do what normal families do. When im busting my ass on a Sunday and receiving penalty rates my family receives the benefits in treats purchased with the extra income and time off later on that make up for my absence.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I see many better avenues for employers to save money and keep jobs. The argument that employees wont get anything if the employers don't open is the weakest statement i have ever heard. i see cafes and restaurants heaving with customers enjoying the weekend with their loved ones, why shouldn't we be compensated for giving up ours.

Submitted by

Darryl Balks

Monday 24th of September 2012