

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 Boilermaker, currently earning around \$33 per hour.

I have a wife who is working casually and we have a mortgage, car loan, and a few other personal debts. I work hard to make ends meet and rising costs only compound our issues.

If penalty rates were abolished my wife's income could be significantly effected as she regularly is rostered to work weekends, approximately 2 every month. I usually work 3 Saturday overtime shifts. We would loose between us about \$500 per week if penalty rates were abolished.

My weekends are important to me because I dont always get 2 days off per week. If

overtime is on I take it because the way costs are rising we need the additional income. I have frequently missed social events because I have had to put the big picture first and ensure our household can afford to survive in the current economic climate.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Everything is on the rise: Electricity, Fuel, Gas, Food and Rates. If penalty rates were to be scrapped then please ensure the cost of living comes down to off set the money lost.

Submitted by

Travis Chalkley

Friday 14th of September 2012