Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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 storeman, currently earning around $32.00 per hour.

I'm 57yrs young,married and have the two best kids in the country, my 20year old son is autistic and lives at home with my wife and I.

If penalty rates were abolished... While my hourly rate seems good for the work I do as a storeman to get it involves me working permanent night shift. My week starts at 2230 Sunday night and finishes at 0630 Friday morning. Sounds ok?. No actually, I spend Friday getting back into sync with the day world and then from Sunday noon getting back to sleep to go to work on Sunday night. The abolition of penalty rates would cost me over $10000 per annum.

My weekends are important to me because... My family is the only the only real wealth I have and spending the little free time available with them on a weekend is all that keeps me on the treadmill. I really only have Saturday to be like most other husbands and fathers and now a proud old granddad and frankly it's not enough but I owe,I owe so it's off to work I go.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates because for me personally they are the only thing that makes my job bearable, but more than that I and my family especially like so many other shift workers make huge compromises for the job and we deserve to be compensated for the social dislocation.

Submitted by
Greg Barker
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