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 agricultural advisor, currently earning around 80000 per year.

I have a young family and I have paid off my mortgage.

If penalty rates were abolished this would mark the demise of the "fair" payment system that Australia is proud of. I worked through university on weekends and my friends do part time work. Without fair remuneration (penalty rates) it would of made it very difficult for me to achieve my current goals.

My weekends are important to me because this is my family time. The weekend is not like any other day because it a high social significance in the Australian culture. It is the few days a week you can spend time with family and friends. You can no organise

the same event on a Tuesday as you could on a Saturday or Sunday. Workling on these days is a significant sacrifice and requires appropriate remuneration.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. This , 4 weeks holidays and other conditions are foundation standards that set us apart from third world or uncaring societies. I ask you... is there a problem of not enough hospitality services wiorking in Ausatralia on the weekend? So if there is no problem, then why are these conditions being attacked. Whether to open a business on the weekend is a business choice of how popular they are, not about conditons of pay. The conditions of pay should not be sacrificed to subsidise unprofitable hostpitality businesses

Submitted by
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