Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

PO Box 6100

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 food process team leader, currently earning around $28 per hour.

I have a grown up family but I am trying to save to be a self funded retiree as well as help my kids establish their own lives, one at university and two working full time. I have a mortgage and investment debts that have been impacted by the global financial crisis due to the share market downturn. I work a 12 hour shift, 4 on and 4 off that involves rotating day shift and night shift. I work some weekends during this 8 week shift cycle.

If penalty rates were abolished I would have to retire most of my debt at a large loss which would seriously limit my ability to become self funded in retirement therefore burdoning the taxpayers of the future.

My weekends are important to me because it is the time when my wife and I can spend time with our friends and our families who do not work shifts.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates so that I may not be a burdon on the state in the future and so that I am recompensed for working unsocial hours. Without penalty rates I would be looking for a job that has more reasonable hours and the company I work for will lose 7 years of training and expertise that they have invested in me.

Submitted by
Trevor Dean
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