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 Assistant Education Officer, currently earning around $54,000.00 per year.

I am a divorced man with a mortgage. I partially support my daughter, who is in financial hard times while she works overseas. i lost my penalty rates this year, due to a roster change and have been struggling to make ends meet ever since.Eg I am limited in what I may spend on food.

I lost penalty rates earlier this year and my salary dropped from $60,000 pa to $54,000 pa. This has placed me under extreme financial duress and means that i now must budget very carefully even to eat adequately. I do not have a partner so I must personally meet all my expenses.

When I was working some weekend days I did miss out on some family and sport activities. For example sometimes I could not attend family gatherings at mid-day Saturday or Sunday.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Most of the workers who currently receive them find them essential to make ends meet. My experience was that while I did weekend work presenting science shows for families on weekend days that I missed out on family bonding events. Saturday night fun was often curtailed because of having to front up to work on the following Sunday morning. When I did lose penalty rates it was a big financial blow.

Submitted by
Robert Smith
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