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Committee Secretary

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Submission to the Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business-Penalty Rates Exemption) Bill 2012

I am a permanent employee, working as a Community Services Caseworker, currently earning around $35 per hour.

I have a family with three children. As young people my children struggle with enormous difficulty to pay high rents, food costs, transport and other living expenses. My youngest (20) is a student and my eldest has a young son.

If penalty rates were abolished this would place an impossible additional burden on my children's ability to live a very basic life and meet rent costs, food costs and so on. Business, especially big business, would gather more profits, but my children would struggle to have a roof over their heads whilst shareholders clinked glasses of champagne!

My children and my weekend's are important because it is family and friends time. It is also time to undertake the million and one tasks around the home and study time. Time that is not available in the business of the working week. This time is precious and irreplaceable. We work for the weekends because the weekends is about life. Its the time spent with the family and friends that is the reason to live. When I'm on my deathbed that's what I'll be missing. Every moment. How much should that cost in compensation??

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Its an outrageous notion that young people should be even further exploited for the sake of increased profits. I understand that there is concern for smaller business on weekends. But there is no talk of distinguishing between large and small business. The idea of taking from those with the least to give to those with more is appalling and not congruent with a 'fair go'. Lets look for another solution rather than stealing from my children and family.

Submitted by
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