

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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 casual employee, working as a cleaner, currently earning around 18.00 per hour.

I am 55 year old woman who has had the misfortune to be chasing work at my age. My family do have a mortgage, and we have two teenaged children. My son who is in Yr 11 only works weekends on \$11 p/r and he is saving for his first car. My family do not receive any government assistance so it is vital that these penalty rates stay or it will not be worth going to work for myself or my son. Penalty rates make it worthwhile to work instead of relaxing with family and friends and missing out on special occasions.

If penalty rates were abolished... my son would not work his casual job and would have no way of saving for a car. I wouldn't work weekends and as I am nearing retirement wouldn't be able to secure a job as most employment even the most menial jobs like

mine as a cleaner expects one to work rotating shift work.

My weekends are important to me because...my son plays AFL, we get to spend quality time together when either myself or my husband are not rostered to work. Weekends are when most people we know get married. Yes, we have missed many events over the years because we were working.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Our forfathers fought hard to get penalty rates, we don't all earn excellent wages and penalty rates are a way of bolstering our incomes. If we lose penalty rates there will not be any incentive to work weekends, so how will the country survive industry works 24/7 and if Australian employees must work 24/7 they must be compensated for this!

Submitted by

Margaret Channon

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