

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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

As a teacher of over 37 years standing I am aware of how necessary strong family and community links are if our young are to grow up with a 'sense of place'.

It is important to have times like the weekend when social relations can be built and maintained: such times should involve friends as well as family.

Indeed if we do not try and protect our weekends as cherished times when people can meet and build relationships easily it is the community that shall ultimately pay the price for the reduced lack of social discourse.

Moreover many weekend workers are in poorly paid jobs (like retail or hospitality) that means penalty rates are a necessary part of their weekly budget. We do not want to foster the idea or reality of 'working poor' by removing even more of their limited

income from them.

Submitted by

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