

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 rigger, currently earning around \$32 per hour.

I have a new born child, wife and three daughters. I am trying to pay off a mortgage, feed, cloth and educate my children while trying to deal with the inconsistent nature of 20 odd years of casual employment.

I am also trying to improve myself by undertaking a degree in occupational health and safety in hopes it may assist me in obtaining full time work and therefore an income I can be assured of each week.

If penalty rates were abolished I would see the time spent away from my family trying to make ends meet increase due to a decrease in take home pay for the same periods. I often work weekends to assist in achieving desired work outcomes and think the penalty rates I receive are small reward for the hours I dedicate to various employers.

I am unable to put any figure on the loss I would suffer as being a casual employee I have no fixed working hours and can simply be told no work tomorrow without any payment or compensation.

My weekends are important to me because I like to spend time with my family, encouraging my children to adopt a healthy lifestyle by engaging in sports and outdoor activities.

Sadly a great amount of weekends are spent working in order to try and provide for my family and ensure some form of financial security should my crippled leg deteriorate further thus lessening my prospects of being able to cope with present financial burdens.

Many a Christmas or Easter has seen me away from my family trying to get ahead by grabbing overtime when it is available in the annual maintenance shutdowns of major industry.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates so I am able to adequately provide for my family's future needs, meanwhile paying a greater amount of tax that pays the salaries of people who seem content to set about trying to lower my family's quality of life. I am a voter, your actions will be remembered by working class Australians.

Submitted by

Steve Kennewell

Thursday 13th of September 2012