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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 cashier, currently earning around $19.70 per hour.

I am a mother to 2 children and a wife. I work 3 part-time 3 nights per week, 2 of these being a Sunday night, mainly so that I could pay of a huge medical bill I incurred, even though my husband and I paid into private health insurance. The doctors charged way over the gap fee.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would receive approximately $100 less per week, this being the money that I am using to help pay the medical bill.

My weekends are important to me because...my husband and children both work, and on a saturday is the only day when all 4 of us can come together.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I am giving up my time on these 3 nights, that is 3 nights and dinners that I am not able to come together as a family, at Easter and Christmas Eve I bet you are all sitting there together as a family, well I am not, I am working so that people like you can have the groceries to make you nice dinners, I bet you can afford to go to a nice restaurant and buy your dinner or your lattes, it is people like myself and my children who make and serve these to you and who most probably cannot afford to buy these for themselves. I invite you to come and walk a mile in my shoes, and see if you would accept a pay cut. This is a written information but I bet you will not take the time out of your day to even respond to my question.

Submitted by
Darlene Billett
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