Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

PO Box 6100

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 permanent employee, working as a social worker, currently earning around $95,000 per year.

I am a single parent supporting two adult children who are in full time study and have part time work. I have a large mortgage. I regularly do extra (unpaid) work after hours as I cannot fit my workload into the hours I am paid. My employer does not allow me to be paid any overtime or take time in lieu except in exceptional circumstances.

If penalty rates were abolished... it would not directly affect me but it would affect so many others including my children's future work conditions.

My weekends are important to me because...I can spend time with my family and friends, unwind and recharge from the workplace, undertake leisure activities and care

for my physical and emotional health.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. We do not want to encourage a mindset of "all work and no play" with "down time" as this creates an unhealthy society. Surely we do not want to turn into a nation like USA where there are so many working poor who are not adequately paid for the long hours they work, often having to take on more than one job to make ends meet. We need to value humanity more than money.

Submitted by
Isobel Bobir
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