Andrew Forrest

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

I am a permanent employee, working as a technician, currently earning around 50 per hour.

I have a two children, a mortgage and my mother is ill.

If penalty rates were abolished this would mean a loss of 15-20% of my gross income, this would mean that it would take me 8 years longer to pay off my mortgage, which will mean I have far less for retirement and would be more likely to be dependent upon government services. Also I probably couldn't afford to send my children to a private school, nor keep up with private health insurance.

My weekends are important to me because this is where I get real time to spend with my children, where I get time to unwind from the pressure of work, where I can attend

working bees at the local school and take my kids to their sport. I have missed my son scoring a hat trick at soccer due to weekend work

I urge the committee to maintain penalty rates. Without the extra income I get through overtime and weekend work, I would never have made the financial committments I have. Probably would not have had a second child. Losing penalty rates would be a loss to the whole community because myself and others would need to work longer hours to make ends meet.

Submitted by
Andrew Forrest
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