

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 permanent employee, working as a part time retail assistant, currently earning around 17.00 per hour.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would find it very difficult to secure more working hours. In a regional area, less opportunity is the prevailing culture in work, training and transport.

My weekends are important to me because...I am distant from my family. I have to take holiday pay to visit my family on weekends that I work. I work on some public holidays to make up pay for big bills.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. The retail sector depends on women and young workers. Don't lock them into low retirement superannuation or perpetuate the two speed economy. Retail workers are not the only working poor Australians. Thousands rely on penalty rates to pay mortgages, medical and other bills. I urge Senate members to reject any moves to normalise working days. Do Senate members sit every Sunday? Or on Anzac afternoon? Boxing Day? Please don't take away special pay for special days.

Submitted by

Linda Lutherborrow

Monday 24th of September 2012