

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 Banker, currently earning around \$30 per hour.

I am 34 and have been working shift work on and off with plenty of weekend work as a norm for over a decade.

If penalty rates were abolished...then my life would change. My employer would insist on weekends every week. Weekends would be over for me. So no more family and friends on weekends. So effectively Christmas day i could see them and that's it. One day a year.(because i have to work public holidays too)

My weekends are important to me because...they are what i live for. The working week is hard and long and the weekend (if i ever get them) is when my family and friends are

available to see. Even though this rarely happens much even now. If weekend rates go then i can forget about it.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. If you give in to this what will happen is immediately employers will abuse it and insist that everyone works on the weekend. The only safety net we have is weekend rates as it makes employers think about it before forcing people to work then. What you'll be doing is bringing in workchoices and we voted that out already. If you allow this bill then obviously YOU will be voted out senators.

Submitted by

Cian O'Dwyer

Thursday 13th of September 2012