

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 Domestic Flight Attendant , currently earning around \$40000 per year.

I am currently part-time, however, have been forced to now put my request in to go back to full time, as it is getting harder to pay all the mounting bills. I have two young daughters and one begins Catholic High School next year. The younger daughter is currently in year 3 (Catholic Primary). The fees are a struggle as it is even on 2 wages. We now have the NSW State Government threatening to take funding away from our schools so as to make it more expensive again! We don't need to lose our penalty rates too! I work mainly weekends, sacrificing family time, in order to pay the bills.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would lose the bulk of my pay as a part time worker. I am currently looking at trying to go back into full time work in my job, in order to pay

our mortgage, bills and school fees, plus buy all the food and uniforms etc. We already budget to the limit! This would take away so much security from our family. The problems we face in our modern society is NOT ENOUGH FAMILY TIME! It's our children who already suffer with absent parents - don't make us have to be non-existent in our family life so our future generations suffer, and go on to do the same thing with their children out of necessity - just to get by! We don't care about fancy cars and houses or material things - just our family : food, clothing and shelter - that's all we are asking to keep.

My weekends are important to me because...we all try to have as much special leisure time together as a family just catching up and hanging out together. We have been unable to give the kids an opportunity to do sports on weekends as I have always had to work, and my husband plays soccer himself on weekends. When I am finished work, we try to have some quality time together with the kids at home or on outings. We also try to catch up with extended family and friends which is important for a family too.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. It is my life line as a shift worker and has helped us out financially just to meet our current lifestyle - which is nothing fancy! We just want to be unstressed about our bills and mortgage and have kept an old car blowing blue smoke as we cannot afford to get another car - even 2nd hand. Please do not make it harder for us to make ends meet - and have to sacrifice more from our kids and family happiness and well-being!

Submitted by

Helen Macias

Monday 24th of September 2012