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

Most of my life I have been employed on a casual basis, as this is mainly what is available in Regional and Rural Victoria where I live.

The suggestion of Mr Xenophon to abolish penalty rates on weekends is an illustration of how dangerously out of touch with the community those elected to govern really are.

Casualisation of the workforce is contributing to the growing divide between rich and poor, as casuals are unable to qualify for lending in most cases and do not have the stability to make long term financial plans in order to create more wealth, to abolish penalty rates would make an unfortunate situation so much worse. I am truly sickened by the lack of value that is put on the labour of hardworking individuals, and the pandering of governments to Industry, at the expense of the quality of life of workers.

I do not want to live in a country where profits are valued above people, an underclass of working poor will lead to disenfranchised people doing antisocial things.

Finally, business owners need to consider whether or not their business is able to

sustain weekend trading whilst paying decent wages, if not - don't trade, these businesses do not exist for the benefit of society, the exist only to create profits for themselves, why should we allow such self-interested people to dictate to the rest of us what pay and conditions are acceptable? They are only going to act in their own interests.

Submitted by
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