

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 casual employee, working as a Seafarer, currently earning around 1,500 per week.

I am struggling to make ends meet with high interest rates, several kids at school, and an ever increasing grocery bills, let alone the huge increases in electricity , I have endeavored to install the latest solar system but the cuts to the rebates seemed to bundle the burden onto our family for that also,

If penalty rates were abolished... I'm sur the rate of salary I'm receiving would be attacked as well because my salary is aggregated to cover a certain amount of penalty rates anyway,(we work for 5 weeks seven days a week for 12 hours a day) its inevitable that a cut in pemelty rates would lead to a bigger division in the Australian community between those that have lots and the rest of us.

My weekends are important to me because...if penalty rates are cut that might lead to a need from the employers to want me to work for eight or more weeks with only the 5 weeks of and therefore greatly reduce my ability to have any sort of family life.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I would go so far as to recommend to the committee to increase the tax on the big corporations so as the working week (hours) can be reduced with no loss in pay so as to enable the employment of more Australians and therefore increase the standard of living.

There is a considerable amount of time spent trying to screw the poorest in our communities and blaming them for the ails of the system of exploitation .

Submitted by

Andrew Olsson

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