Jewel Wheeler

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 Carer, currently earning around 21.00 per hour.

If penalty rates were abolished... you will certainly lose many employees who give up weekends, do shift work and split shifts. My income will reduce by atleast $200 per week. My job entales me to have to work split shifts. This is a lot of running around. Fuel costing me well over a 100/ week. I am on a contract of 25hrs/week. Please tell me how the hec am I to afford to keep paying with next to no wage to continue to provide the same service. The mathematics do not add up. I seriously would be better off giving up work.

My weekends are important to me because...As I work every second weekend, the alternate weekend is highly important to me. It's the only time I can catch up with family, spend time with my children or grandchildren. Maintain my house. I don't have the luxury of every weekend and every afternoon. I have missed out on many events due to having to work weekends. Birthdays, Christmas , Easter, Christenings, Family outings, family holidays. The list is too long. I manage to live with it due to being dedicated to my job. However this will not be a possibility for much longer, with the high cost of living and the reduction in wages.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Or you will lose the dedicated workers who have given up so much of their lives to keep their employers happy. How educated do you have to be to see that when a worker earns 10 dollars but it costs them 15 to go to work, where's the extra 5 dollars coming from????

Submitted by
Jewel Wheeler
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