

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 water treatment plant operator, currently earning around 120000 per year.

I currently work a 4 day on 4 day off roster, although this bill isn't set to change my penalty rates, will mine be the next to go? I have 4 dependants and a wife at home and we all rely on the extra income made by me giving up my weekends to make ends meet. I would not give up my weekends and the time with my family if it were not for the penalties. For anyone to suggest that weekends are not more of a sacrifice to ones social and family life is ridiculous. Prior to my position with the SA Water corporation I ran a local deli and paid my workers accordingly as they too had family and friends they were giving up time with to make ends meet in these difficult times. perhaps if we were all on Nicks salary we could all live the dream of monday to friday 9-5 and not have to work ODD hours

If penalty rates were abolished... my yearly take home pay would HALF my base rate is 59k a year and i double that by working the hours no one else wants to do. why do i do this? I do it for the money and to give my children a better life.

My weekends are important to me because...when im not rostered on i spend quality time with my family and we can afford to go out camping or to the zoo, why because i earn penalty rates.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. without them many low to medium income earners such as myself will suffer. would you give up your bonuses and penalties? try raising a family of 6 on 59k a year!

Submitted by

Jason Smith

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