Stephen Macdonald

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

I am a casual employee, working as a EEN, currently earning around 27 per hour.

I am paying rent as cannot afford to buy a unit. I would like to study to become an RN and work casually on weekends. I have postponed returning to Uni for nxt year as I cannot afford to pay all my rent, bills, car exp etc

If penalty rates were abolished I would be unable to fulfill my dream of becoming a Registered Nurse as I could not afford to study and pay my Rent, Bills, Car Expenses, etc. With penalty rates and my savings I am hoping to go to Uni in 2014 or 2015. I estimate I would loose up to $20,000 per year.

My weekends are important to me because it is the time when I can catch up with my friends and enjoy some social interaction. Being single with no kids this is Very

important for my overall health, wellbeing and SOUL. It is 100% necessary for me to keep the dreaded start of depression at arms length. I have missed many social events including watching this weekends footy grand finals with my friends as I am working afternoon shifts this weekend.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates for all the reasons I have stated above. It has taken me to now at 54yrs of age to study, work hard and finally find a job I enjoy that does not pay a huge salary. $25.18 p/hr. My penaly rates help top up my wage and having the uncertainty of being casually employed as no new full-time positions have been advertised in the last 3mths, it is essential in helping me save for times when work is scarce and means I do not have to get any Centrelink assistance. Not yet anyway!!!!

Submitted by
Stephen Macdonald
Wednesday 26th of September 2012