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 retail sales assistant, currently earning around 20. per hour.

I am a single person with mortgage who works full time, often 6 days a week. I am also studying Cert 3 in fitness via correspondence to improve my life and income.

I worked in New Zealand when they abolished the penalty rates. I had to work longer hours just to make my rent payments as my rent went up but my penalty rates stopped. It felt like I was always at work and never had any quality time at home as I was always tired from long work hours. I worked full time 6 days a week in retail Monday to Sunday with a late night included on Thursdays. Sometimes I would get home so tired I would just cry. It was an unbeleveibly depressing state to be in. I hope this never happens in this country.

I am a volunteer fire fighter and my spare time can be taken up with training and fighting fires. I need a lot of energy for this and working longer hours to make ends meet can just make this too hard.

In Australia we should be able to work to live. Not live to work

Submitted by
Mandy Dempsey
Monday 17th of September 2012