Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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 room attendant supervisor, currently earning around 18.58 per hour.

I have worked in the hospitality industry for 20 years and I am married.

If penalty rates were abolished... it would be alot harder to make ends meet especially since the utility price hikes have escalated rapidly in the last few years along with food. My income would be reduced by approx $4000 a year which would reduce my income even further below the low income level set by the government for taxation purposes.

My weekends are important to me because...if I didn't recieve penalty rates it would not be worth working in the hospitality industry on weekends for peasant wages doing hard manual labour. I would rather be enjoying my weekends with family and friends, out

and about and relaxing. Maybe this senator would like to come and do my job for a week and experience what hard manual labour is like, because I am sure he has never done a hard days physical work in his life for low wages. Unlike him I don't get to enjoy subsidised parliamentry meals at taxpayers expense, I supply my own lunches for work. I don't receive lots of taxpayer funded perks such as being chauffeur driven to work, I have to fund my own work related travel expenses.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. If they are scrapped I will either not work another weekend again or I will leave the industry and get another job and I am sure alot of my work mates will do the same.

Submitted by
Tracy Roberts
Saturday 15th of September 2012