I think the intentions of the bill is admirable to do something to help Small Business but this bill will do more harm than good and for the following reasons:

- Weekends are still very important to Australians because it is time to spend with children as school is still Monday to Friday; most sports are played on the weekend; most religious people attended their place of worship on the weekends; most plays and concerts happen on the weekend; friends and family gather on the weekends; most social events like weddings, birthday parties and other celebrations happen on the weekends. So to say people consider weekends are out dated is not true. If people had choice between working Monday to Friday or weekends for the same money, I know which the majority would choose. The main reasons people work weekends is for the penalty rates; I know that is the reason why I chose a job that involves shift work.

- Hospitality businesses all compete on a relative even playing field as they all pay Australian wages. They do not have to compete with other countries low wages and conditions. So if businesses are not making a profit it is due to other reasons and not penalty rates. Because there are some small businesses that are thriving under the current wage regime.

- What ever happened to enterprise bargaining? If you wipe penalty rates away what have workers got to negotiate for a higher wage rate?

- People are struggling now with cost of living, e.g. council rates going up between 7% to 700% (according to A Current Affair), Electricity up 10% to 20%, water rates 6% to 20%, Insurance 10% to 20%, and so forth; while wages are for everyone (except Mining employees) is lucky to go up by 2.5%. Now you want to reduce their real take home pay.

- Reducing workers real take home pay will mean less spending in shops which put more pressure on small business.

- By reducing peoples take home pay it will mean more government hand out and put more strain on charities to help feed and clothe the working poor. In other words we will become more like America where the government subsidise business payrolls by providing workers with government benefits because of the low wages and conditions in America.

- there is less public transport on the weekend if you need to get to work

- You will create a two tier wage system and this will mean you will have two people doing roughly the same job getting paid a different amount of money depending on how big the business is.

- You are creating more red tape and add more cost to small business as government need to make sure bigger businesses are not paying employees at a lesser rate.

- We are nearly at full employment and we are importing thousands of people to fill mining jobs and yet you want to reduce people's wages.

- For the last 60 odd years Australia has had penalty rates and have grown bigger and better than another country in the world. This is due partly to Australia's high wages that is made up of penalty rates.

- This bill will give big business the base to argue for your bill to be implemented across all of the work force.

- Big Businesses will reduce their work force or split the business into smaller businesses to be able make use of your bill.

I believe businesses are struggling due to many reasons: poor management, bad government polices on import & export polices stopping Australia businesses to compete with China on even level, high Government charges, poor out look for Superannuation payout, consumer worries about high cost of living with low wage rises stopping people from spending, and many other reasons that have a bigger impact on businesses bottom line than penalty rates do.

My last point is, until politicians and CEOs are willing to work for a flat $20 an hour with no penalty rates or expenses, you need to keep your dirty hands off the poor's penalty rates. Or do you want strikes like they have over in South Africa were people get shot for wanting a fair pay for fair days work.