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 , currently earning around per hour.

I owned a restaurant for 6 years, my husband is a chef and works every Saturday and Sunday the penalty rates are small compensation for missing every soccer game, family function and any social gatherings. The extra pay helps pay the mortgage.

If penalty rates were abolished..we would struggle to pay the mortgage, I would be forced to find full time emplyoyment to the deteriment of our family life and the upbringing of a 15yo boy when at this age they require constant support and monitoring to ensure they avoid the tempation of drugs, alcohol and unsuitable websites which is so readily available.

My weekends are important to me because..it is time to spend with the family, My

husband did coach the soccer team when he had his own business but is now required to work every weekend. He misses every tennis competition and every family function and is sadly missed by all his friends and family. To lose penalty rates he would be forced to find a 2nd job in order to pay school fees and the mortgage, especially since the government is cutting funding and fees are to increase

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. It is greedy employers who and those who underpay staff, despite any government crackdowns this is common practise in hospitality, I paid full award and super to my staff and know that all my staff wer underpaid by others and all the restaurants around me wer paying staff $12ph. It is not necessary for shops to be open 24/7, greedy multinationals are destroying this country and the fabric of society. If more parents were at home rather than working there would not be the societal problems of drunks and violence. Keep the penalty rates it is the least you can do for honest hard working people, why not top executives and politicians sacrifice their salaries in good faith instead.

Submitted by
Sandra Thapa
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