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

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in regard to the bill Senator Xenophon has put before parliament to axe penalty rates.

Although many business are open on weekends now, we are still traditionally a Monday to Friday society. Family time still tends to be the weekend.

I feel it is very important that if you work in an industry that requires you to work weekends, that you should be compensated for your loss of family/friendship time.

Students, who traditionally work weekends to pay their way through university or college would also find it much more difficult to survive if penalty rates were not paid.

I would be most surprised if business owners did not know what costs were involved in running their businesses which do, of course include paying wages that include penalty rates. I\'m also sure these costs are passed onto us as consumers; and, I\'m equally sure prices would not go down if penalty rates were abolished.

I would also be concerned that people who work weekends, who often work in lower paying jobs already, would be required to work more than 5 days a week to be able to pay rent or if they\'re lucky enough to be paying off their own house, their mortgage. Please consider that for some people being paid penalty rates is the only way they can survive from week to week.

Regards,

Marissa Ilsley

Thursday 13th of September 2012