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Submission to the Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business-Penalty Rates Exemption) Bill 2012

I am a casual employee, working as a bush regenerator, currently earning around 23 per hour.

I organise volunteer and educational activities at weekends and during the week, some for adults, some for children and adults. The children can only come at weekends but need parents or other adults to bring them.

If the penalty rate disincentive to employ people at weekends is removed, weekends will become increasingly like week days with less parents able to bring their kids to things like the ones I organise. This will disadvantage the kids. Everyone will miss out on the advantages of activities have a wide range of ages involved together that currently occur at weekends.

If penalty rates were abolished it would affect other people financially. Currently the costs are structured into the way businesses are managed, the way people choose what sort of work they do, the way individuals and families manage their finances, the way pay rates are set and work in practice, and the way our whole society functions. Their is no need to make a major change to all this for the benefit of employers that currently work with and around panalty rates.

My employer might start wanting me to work at weekends which would mean I can't be the organiser of weekend activities as well as doing other things with my family and community groups that they want to do at weekends.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.

Submitted by
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