

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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Parliament House

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 Sales Manager, currently earning around 35.00 per hour.

I have a Family of 4 and a mortgage. I am the sole earner in the household.

If penalty rates were abolished I would never be able to return to my trade as a fitter & machinist. I left the trade because penalty rates have already been reduced with an unfair enforced workplace agreement. It's no longer worth working in the trade in Australia. That's why we have a national shortage of skilled workers for infrastructure and projects and import skilled workers who take the money earned offshore. We're exporting money yet we need free money circulating in our local markets.

My weekends are important to me because I need recreation. The reduction in penalty

rates meant I had to work a 50 hour + week night shift, which included Saturday, to make up for the shortfall caused by reduced shift awards. Employers are killing the 40 hour week and penalty rates as well as reducing the number of jobs all to increase their profits. There's no guarantee their profits are invested in Australia. Workers and small businesses both lose as ultimately there is higher unemployment and less disposable income in the economy.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates and other Australian awards. What will be the next award reduction ? The 40 hour week is now 50+ The 17.5% holiday loading has gone. 30% Night & Afternoon shift has been reduced to 10%. Sick Leave and Annual Leave has been greatly reduced with the higher percentage of workers forced to work several casual jobs instead of one permanent. What next ? No Annual Leave or Public Holidays ? Bank CEO's and others rape the economy earning millions of dollars per annum whilst paying little tax. Australian workers scratch out a survival and the only strategy politicians can deliver is to squeeze more money out of workers, the spending public.

There's only 21 million people on this island and we sell billions of dollars worth of resources every year yet we're borrowing money to get by and resorting to reducing workers entitlements. What's going on Canberra ?????

Submitted by

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