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20 September 2012

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Education,
Employment & Workplace Relations
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Fair Work Amendment (Small Business Penalty Rate Exemption) Bill 2012

I work for a small business, a licensed café, employing about 8 full time equivalent employees.

I wish to provide my absolute support for the passage of this Bill through Parliament as labour costs have forced us to close on public holidays and are out of proportion to our turnover since the introduction of the Restaurant Industry Award regulating wages and penalty rates.

If penalty rates were abolished not only would the business be more viable on weekends, we would consider employing more casual employees.

There is no shortage of people wanting to work on weekends and public holidays and we want to open but will not if it is not viable to do so.

Consumers expect restaurants and cafes to trade 7 days a week yet this can only be achieved if it is commercially viable to trade through de-regulation of the mandatory penalty rates applied under the Modern Industrial Award system.

If penalty rates were abolished then productivity in this industry would increase, more people would be employed, tax revenue and superannuation savings would increase, and the public would get the service they demand in the 21st century.

Yours faithfully

Edmund F Brailey