

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 Govt Bus Driver, currently earning around \$24 per hour.

Had a knee replacement so had to search for a career change (at age 56).

Completed the 2 yr probationary period (which was quite stressful) and now have been with STA 3 and a half years. Still got a mortgage and a plethora of medical bills as I also have an incurable autoimmune condition which requires medication x3 times daily to control and hence keep working.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would probably be better off going on to a disability pension which, for mental health would not be a preferred option but it would be pointless carrying on with 'slave' labour conditions !!

My weekends are important to me because... Everyone needs a work/life balance, especially as one gets older you want to spend time with family and friends as your job, while important to pay the bills and look after your quality of life, is not AS important and enjoying your time away from work as you age.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Penalty rates allow one to alleviate the financial stresses that come from 'scraping through', In my job, I work while others play. It means I miss many sports and entertainment events as I work weekends and public holidays to allow others to enjoy themselves without the hassles of driving/parking. The sacrifices I make must be suitably compensated just a matter of workplace fairness. I know what is right/wrong and what is fair/unfair and the proposed changes to penalty rates is wrong and unfair on so many levels !!!!!

Submitted by

graeme west

Tuesday 25th of September 2012