

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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

It is typically the people who do not have to work jobs at weekends that lead the push for abolishing penalty rates, I am a shift worker in a 24/7 industry that is not retail or hospitality and believe me employers have already hinted that if this bill gets through they would be lobbying for it to include ALL industries that now have to pay weekend and weekday overtime rates so that they can improve their bottom line and "Investors" can have a higher return on their money. The steady eroding of "family time" to suit business need - and greed - will eventually lead to even more breakdown in the social structure that we in this country are rightly proud of. If businesses want to operate 24 hours a day 7 days a week then they must be prepared to compensate those who HAVE to work these jobs and hours, in many cases these people are at the lower end of the socio-economic structure and this work is their only hope of survival in what is fast becoming the "have" and "have not" two tiered Australian living standard. The constant push to deliver more profit to business should not be allowed to

undermine the working conditions and pay of those who can least afford it.

Submitted by

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