

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees
on Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Committee Secretary

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

I run a small business employing less than twenty full time equivalent employees. Our business is located in a small country town that relies on Weekend and holiday tourists to survive.

I wish to provide my absolute support for the passage of this Bill through Parliament as my labour costs have blown out to an average of 40% of turnover (this is not sustainable) since the introduction of the Restaurant Industry Award regulating wages and penalty rates.

If penalty rates were abolished not only would my business be more viable on weekends I would consider employing more employees across the board to better service our customers. With the weekend costs being so high, we keep staff to a minimum and therefore jeopardise our customer service ability.

Consumers expect restaurants and cafes to trade 24/7, particularly in tourist areas 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.

Yours faithfully

Kiona Best



