

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 subscription manager , currently earning around \$35 per hour.

I have a husband and 4 children, who are no longer dependents.

If penalty rates were abolished, young people who work, often very unsocial hours, to support themselves would earn virtually nothing. My 19 year old son works for a major Australian retailer which takes advantage of every loophole to avoid paying a reasonable wage. The minimum wage is a national disgrace and penalty rates go some way to improving this basic rate.

My weekends are important to me because it when our busy family all get together to meet, eat and catch up.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Young Australians need to see the value in working and earning a living to support themselves. My son has to work for an hour to pay for one daily return trip to university and we live in Melbourne zone 1! If the senator wants to cut penalty rates he would do better to campaign to cut the cost of living first! The level of corporate greed that exists in Australia is despicable and should not be encouraged by government.

Submitted by

Elsbeth Gardner

Thursday 13th of September 2012