

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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Australia

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

I am now "officially retired", but I work full-time, mainly writing history. I spend a great deal of time reading Australian material from the 19th century, an era when Britons lived in squalor and Australians had one of the highest standards of living in the world, and Australia was the Promised Land.

From my reading, I know well that no taxpayer ever regarded any tax as just, and no employer ever saw any payment made to employees as reasonable or justified.

Like Gina Rinehart, who yearns after \$2-a-day Africans, squatters in the 1830s sought coolies from India or China, wanted to import freed American blacks, or Pacific islanders. Others brought in German workers under indenture. These foreigners, they declared, were close to brutes, could live cheaply, and would be docile because of their lack of English.

The demand that penalty rates be done away with is, in a strict and non-strident sense, completely un-Australian. We pride ourselves in our free and easy culture, in our joyful lifestyle, but now, a few greedy people, determined that they alone should inherit the earth and its wealth, wish to destroy that lifestyle for their own aggrandisement.

Man does not live by bread alone!

Submitted by

Peter Macinnis

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