

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 clerk, currently earning around per hour.

I work full time, but 3 of my children do not work fixed hours and receive penalyu rates.

They have mortgages and expenses

My own employer recently attempted to extend our trading hours without compensation via penalty rates. We all objected. Women travelling at night often feel unsafe. The penalty rate helps them afford taxi's or petrol and parking fees. School children are home in the evenings and weekends - penalty rates are a compensation to the family income for not being there with the family.

My weekends are important to me because it is family and church time. Regardless of penalty rates offered, I refused to work on Good Friday and Easter Sunday when it was

required of me. Others were willing to sacrifice their time, but only for the compensation which helped their debt situation. Don't turn all of Australia in to a 24 hour supermarket.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. They are a compensation for disrupted sleep patterns, extra travelling cost and time delays, or parking fees. Abolishing Penalty rates will not promote more work, but it will go straight into employer's profits.

Submitted by

John Deacon

Thursday 13th of September 2012