

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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 Public servant, currently earning around \$100,000 per year.

While losing weekend penalty rates may make my shopping cheaper (if employers pass on the savings), why on earth should a group of people who earn some of the lowest wages in the Australian workforce already be further penalised so that I can pay a little less for my bread and milk?

If penalty rates were abolished it would mean the reduction in (the already lower than average) wages for a large group of Australian workers. The strategies to increase Australia's productivity DO NOT include a Gina-Rinehart-inspired move to competing with low-wage economies, but in innovation, better education and management in the workplace.

My weekends are important to me because they are an opportunity to spend time with the people for whom I care, doing the things we enjoy doing. I think that this is true for many Australians, and that if people are expected to give this up, they should be adequately compensated for doing so.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.

Submitted by

Luke Hays

Thursday 13th of September 2012