

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 Registered Nurse, currently earning around 39.00 per hour.

I am a single man approaching retirement age.

If penalty rates were abolished..it would be a tragedy for workers everywhere. This would be the tip of the iceberg, real wage rates would be the next target. Recreation, long service leave and sick leave are also targets.

My weekends are important to me because i enjoy visiting local small businesses, enjoying coffee and cakes. Going to entertainment venues.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. This enables lower paid workers to eke an

existence by providing valuable services to the community on days which are normally reserved for leisure and family activities. Small businesses often charge a surcharge on public holidays and weekends which most of us are prepared to pay to enable these lower income workers to receive a more equitable income. Politicians need to remember that they are actually our employees, and can and will be sacked at the next opportunity, sadly, this opportunity occurs on a too infrequent basis.

Submitted by

David Harris

Tuesday 2nd of October 2012