

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

PO Box 6100

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 , currently earning around per hour.

If penalty rates were abolished...

I am very concerned that Senator Xenophon's Bill before Parliament will result in Saturday and Sunday being treated like just another day of the working week. The weekends are a time to be spent with family and friends. Whether it is going to the footy, visiting friends, or volunteering in a local community service, for more than 60 years the weekend has been protected by penalty rates. Penalty rates are an important part of keeping the weekend special and compensating those who do have to work.

Senator Xenophon's Bill will dramatically change our weekends, effectively turning them into just another working day, cutting people's take-home pay and shifting the burden of onto workers. Senator Xenophon should avoid destroying our weekends by withdrawing his Bill from Parliament.

In regards to restaurant & cafes -the workers in these areas are often only casual and receive minimum net income or if full-time receive a very low wage. The main pressure to owners of restaurants and cafes are outrageous landlord rents. It would be better off to lobby against the greedy landlords in order to have rents reduced to take pressure off the owners of the business to reduce wages. Regards

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.

Submitted by

glenn humphreys

Thursday 20th of September 2012