

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 customs officer, currently earning around 31 per hour.

I have a family to support. Wife and five children and a mortgage.

If penalty rates were abolished... Me alone, who does not do many shifts, gets 150 per fortnight from those penalty rates. My wife, who is a casual in hospitality, and I, rely on those penalty rates to supplement the atrocious pay rates your government expects us to manage on.

My weekends are important to me because... It is the only chance I get to hang with the kids, go to their sports games, play a sport myself, go to Church on Sunday and catch up with family. It is only the penalty rates received that in some way compensate

us for working on weekdends and working while their are family functions on, birthdays etc.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. We who are wanting these penalty rates kept are already amongst the lowest paid workers out there. That is why we have to do the horrible shift hours/weekends to get penalty rates to bring our miserable pay rates up a bit. We dont have the luxury of huge salaries, huge super schemes and a huge, AMWE-indexed super pension scheme like you all do. We need penalty rates, so let us keep them.

Submitted by

duncan Fairbairn

Thursday 13th of September 2012