

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 Scene Of Crime Officer, currently earning around 43.65 per hour.

I have a personal loan which I am paying off and trying to save for a home loan.

If penalty rates were abolished... my fortnightly pay would be decreased by an average \$400 per fortnight as I work 2 full weekends every 6 week cycle of my roster, however, when we are short staffed this can increase to 4 or 5 weekends in a 6 week cycle.

My weekends are important to me because... my partner works in the Army and when he is in Australia he works a 7am to 4pm shift during the week and on the weekend we can't spend time together or go anywhere because I work weekends. We are looking at starting a family in the future and it really concerns me that if my penalty rates were to

be abolished then we wouldn't be able to afford to keep up a mortgage and pay for child care and we still wouldn't be able to spend time as a family. I have missed out on weddings, holidays, nights out with the girls and family events because I have to work on the weekend while everyone else is free to enjoy their time together.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Without them I think i would have to look for a job in the private sector and not have to work weekends, but I sincerely love my job and want to be able to stay in it serving my community and helping victims of crime.

Submitted by

Lucy Coll

Thursday 27th of September 2012