

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 Child Protection Caseworker at Peninsula, currently earning around \$ 40 per hour.

I am a mother, stepmother, grandmother, spouse, student of life, artist and keeper of animals plus active member of the community. I have a mortgage and an investment property to sell when to retire on. I have worked my whole life since age 13 and struck in the seventies to get the benefits we are enjoying now.

If penalty rates were abolished I wont be able to retire at age 65 and my employer (Government) is keen to kick anyone over 40 years of age out. I work in the weekends to be able to pay the bills. Electricity has gone up, our rental property has been empty for a long time so we have to fill in the mortgage gap more then normal. Heating is more expensive, general living cost have gone up, the phone bills are higher, rates

have gone up. Do I have to have anymore reasons to work in the weekends?

My weekends are important to me because I like to spend time with my family who are the most important people in my life. I don't know how long I still have on this earth, my time has been shortened by my cancer.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I have recently had a life saving cancer operation and need to spend quality time with them as well as that I get quicker tired and need my time off to recuperate from a weeks work. I dont get time to spend on the things that relax me like my art. My art is like therapy to me, it puts me in a different world forgetting about my ailments. As I said before, I sat out on strikes in my younger years and now at age 63, and I will do it again even if it doesn't help me but at least my grandkids will benefit. I can't retire when I really need to for health reasons. I have been put in a situation by this government that I have to put myself through a lot of extra stress that is harming to my health and shortening my lifespan.

Submitted by

Emmy CAPAAN

Friday 14th of September 2012