

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 SSA, currently earning around 21.00 per hour.

I am currently supporting my 2 children aged 5 & 6 (1 has Autism), on a part time wages as a retail worker. I am contracted only to work 19 hours a week in the office but when I work on the floor my wage drops to \$19.50 an hour. I am trying to pay all the bills on about 30 hours of work a week because my husband has been unemployed for the past 7 months and has only just got a casual job 4 days a week.

If penalty rates were abolished... I will loose money when i work nites and Sundays (these shifts are always above my contracted hours) and i rely on these extra penalties to cover huge bills when they come in. All my work mates also rely on penalties to suppliment their low pay as they work on the floor.

My weekends are important to me because... it is the only time i get to spend time with my family and I often have to miss out of doing things with my kids because I am called into work and i can't say no because we need the money

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. We deserve them because it is us low paid workers that give up our weekends and nites to try to earn a living.

Submitted by

Veronica Adolphe

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