

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

Dear Senate Committee,

It really is mind-boggling how one-eyed these moves to abolish penalty rates on weekends are.

Operators in the retail, restaurant and catering sectors open on weekends because those days give lucrative trading. Why? Because their customers have weekends off. So any suggestion that weekends are just "normal" days is nonsense.

Penalty rates for working on weekends are simply compensation for staff for not having weekends off.

Penalty rates for a business are just a cost of operating on those lucrative weekends.

So I suggest that the small business owners be told to stop whining and get on with business as they have been doing - successfully, it would appear - to date.

Peter

Submitted by

Peter Ridgewell

Friday 14th of September 2012