

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 mill worker, currently earning around \$23.00 per hour.

I have a family and am currently paying off a mortgage, i have worked in my current workplace for 12 years, most of the people I work with are renting and just keeping their heads above water, most arent able to put aside money for a deposit on a house.

If penalty rates were abolished... it would have a dramatic impact on many of my workmates, it would mean a big reduction in their take home pay, It would mean many of my work mates having to make a decision about which bills are prioritised to pay and where they reduce their spending on basic necessities.

In some cases it would mean a reduction of 30% in take home pay.

My weekends are important to me because...I am involved in local community and church activities. I have the luxury to forgo weekend penalty rates, many of my workmates cant afford this luxury and miss out on time with their Kids.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Otherwise you are forcing many workers into poverty.

Submitted by

Anthony Oldfield

Thursday 13th of September 2012