

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees  
on Education, Employment  
and Workplace Relations  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Committee Secretary

**Fair Work Amendment (Small Business Penalty Rate Exemption) Bill 2012**

I run two small businesses, each employing less than twenty full time equivalent employees.

I wish to provide my absolute support for the passage of this Bill through Parliament as my labour costs have blown out since the introduction of the Restaurant Industry Award regulating wages and penalty rates. We live in a tourist town where our two restaurants, and others, often close on Sundays and public holidays due to the labour costs. This is a ridiculous situation for us and visitors to town.

If penalty rates were abolished not only would my business be more viable on weekends I would be open earlier and definitely be employing more casual employees. Consumers expect restaurants and cafes to trade 24/7 yet this can only be achieved if it is commercially viable to trade through de-regulation of the mandatory penalty rates applied under the Modern Industrial Award system.

Yours faithfully

Marco Piat  
Business Owner  
Finz & Zinc Restaurants Port Douglas