

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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 Terminal Operator, currently earning around 30.00 per hour.

Previously I worked in the manufacturing industry. At the time on about \$20.00 per hour. I had just had bad luck in a business venture where I was the owner operator of a courier franchise. The manufacturing job gave me the ability to live a frugal life again. However, the only way ahead was to work overtime when it came available. I took as many shifts over the weekend as they were worked as they were rare. Of course this impacted on any leisure time, spending time with kids and other family and of course sporting activities like my tennis and golf. As a matter of fact I was going not going to renew my golf membership as I really could not afford the luxury at that time.

The wage that I was on only covered the basics. You could not afford to have private health, be member of clubs like gym or golf.

If penalty rates were abolished you would be taking the only opportunity away from the lower paid workers any opportunity of getting ahead. Or at the very least put them back further.

It is a ridiculous Bill that is being introduced that is that far out of touch from the average or lower paid worker that is is repulsive. Where will these people get a deposit for a house, where will these people get ahead.

Is that the purpose of the Bill to keep the less fortunate down?

My weekends are important to me because I am and have always been involved in sports. I used to assist a tennis coach coaching in the outback town of Cobar. There kids had little exposure to quality coaching. By introducing them to the sport and activity we brought about change and saw a few turn into good tennis players.

I have also been heavily involved in golf administration and have been a board member of most of the clubs that I have had the pleasure to be a member of.

I have been involved with the Western Area Golf association, The Daling Cricket Council as well as Lachlan Valley golf Association. Although I am not now because of my current work and location these are things that I have voluntarily given my time to in the past.

I do have friends around at times, I enjoy fishing with family and friends.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.

Like you I value my weekends and days off. As a shift worker I no longer play competitive tennis, but still play socially on the weekends that I get off.

You people I assume take getting the weekends off for granted, but not all of us have that luxury.

I ask you to value the weekend and reject this Bill.

Submitted by

Glenn Jones

Tuesday 18th of September 2012