

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 , currently earning around per hour.

I have a family with 4 children with all but one working. One works in the hospitality industry the other 2 in retail. We need to protect the working rights of our children! My daughter who works in hospitality does not receive penalty rates for weekends and therefore refuses to work them. This is an isolated case as most young workers won't stand up to their employers.

If penalty rates were abolished... I for one would not work weekends without penalty rates! After working 5 days to work a weekend should be optional. I know that some people don't have the luxury to say no to working weekends without penalties and to those that must work to make ends meet the extra money earned through penalty rates is a godsend.

My weekends are important to me because...after working 5 days a week I need the time off to unwind & do what I like doing or must do. Raising children, spending time with my partner (who also works works very hard 5 days/week), maintaining my property etc..

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. If penalty rates must be addressed then do that for Saturdays but not Sundays. Saturdays could become part of the working week in some industries but not all. But Sundays should never be worked without adequate compensation. In days gone by Sundays were a day of rest and shops & industries just weren't open, pubs were closed on sundays!

Submitted by

John Mortlock

Thursday 20th of September 2012