

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 employee, working as a Shop Assistant, currently earning around \$400 per week.

I am submitting this on behalf of my son. He is 22 years old, a student three days p.w. and employee three days p.w. Sundays are for study, recreation and catching up with his mates. He resides with me and relies on me for lifts of a morning as there is little public transport connecting our suburb to . He often has to travel home on foot from to our home in ; wearing out a lot of shoe leather. Taxis are utilised only when desperate or shared.

If penalty rates were abolished... That would decrease his \$400 p.w. considerably as he works

Saturdays and Thursday nights and sometimes works back on Tuesday night.

His weekends are important to him because...He only has Sundays to catch up with his mates. Sunday is his only day of rest, and mainly taken up with assignments. He misses out on many functions held on a Saturday including weddings, birthdays, etc.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I challenge Senator Xenophon to live on \$400 p.w. My son has to meet expenditure of meals (at work and the Institute), fares, clothing both work and rec., Institute fees, equipment for his studies, dental, medical.

A visit to the dentist is

\$200 for a check/clean or a small filling, half of his weekly earnings for a 30 min. visit.

If he injured his back physiotherapy treatment would be prohibitive. A visit to the local GP is \$75 with

a refund of about \$35 on Medicare. If he had to rent he would not be able to afford dental treatment or groom himself with a haircut or replace worn/torn clothing or shoe repairs. To the Senator I remind him that even though this is a "rich country" there are many thousands of low paid workers relying on penalty rates. They are barely getting by; the working poor. It is incomprehensible that Mr Abbott has wasted Australian money with his persistent opposition to offshore processing in Malaysia; all Nations should cover the expenditure and ensure the security/housing of refugees not Australia alone.

I do not know how people on low incomes like this get by without support for accommodation. Life would be utterly miserable without penalty rates.

Submitted by

Leonie Dean

Wednesday 19th of September 2012