

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 shop assistant, currently earning around \$400 per week.

I am a student three days per week; work three days a week stacking shelves; spend about \$100 plus p.w. on food as my lunch break is either mid or late in the afternoon. Only Sundays off as a break.

If penalty rates were abolished. It would mean I would not have the means to clothe myself or fund any entertainment or social life. Or alternatively save any money. I have to pay for: fees and equipment for my studies inclu'g computer softwear; public transport and taxis.

I walk long distances as there are no connecting buses; wear and tear on shoes. Meet dental and medical expenses. A visit to the dentist is a min. of \$200 half of my weekly earnings. I work often 1 hr plus one day p.w., to 9 pm on Thursdays and Saturday so penalty rates are important to me to maintain an income of \$400 p.w.

My weekends are important to me because... I only have Sunday to spend with family and my mates. I miss out on many important family celebrations which are held on Saturdays. The shops are open all weekend and someone has to work those shifts.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates so I can afford to pay for dental treatment; meet the cost of physiotherapy if I injure myself. Replace my worn/torn work clothing and shoes. Save for a car ONE DAY!!!! Or a holiday instead. Stacking shelves all day is hard work on your feet; answering questions from the demanding public; then I have to catch up on assignments after work. I pity my workmates who work full time and many of them tell me they only have \$100 p.w. spare left to themselves after working overtime and five or six days p.w. Perhaps it is time Senator Xenophon, retailers and shareholders took a reality cheque ... I mean check, and had a thought for the working poor for a change.

Submitted by

Leonie Dean

Monday 24th of September 2012