

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 sales person, currently earning around \$22 per hour.

I do not have a husband, children, pets nor a mortgage. I live within my means other than a modest amount of personal debt via a credit card . I also do not own a car. I am working class person so therefore I am the working poor and survive on 1 income , share with a flatmate and do not have a rich family and do not get any tax breaks. I also pay for extra study .

If penalty rates were abolished... it would be an affront to democracy and workers rights that unions and workers have fought so hard for in the past. It is also not realistic as the cost of living is rising higher than any yearly wage increase regardless.

My weekends are important to me because...it is usually the only time you can socialise with friends and enjoy quality time with family. Important events such as weddings and funerals are normally scheduled on weekends. I spent 4 yrs not being able to attend anything as I was working every weekend. This isolates people and is not good for the fabric of society.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. People work hard for the little they do get. it is not nearly enough in today's world with all the pressures and costs of living. People who do miss out on social engagements due to working on the weekend, need to be compensated financially for this sacrifice.

Submitted by

Ann Brita Nilsson

Thursday 13th of September 2012