

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 ALS Paramedic Educator, currently earning around \$65,000 per year.

I am soon to be a father of one who has a mortgage.

If penalty rates were abolished, the sacrifice that I already make would be even greater. At present as a paramedic I work a rotating roster which means that I work Nightshifts at least once every 8 days and work weekends 5 weeks of every eight. Therefore if penalties were abolished my wage would easily drop from \$65,000/year to \$50,000.

My weekends are important to me because these are the days that all the special occasions occur. I recently missed celebrating Fathers Day because of my

commitment to my job and my community. This is something that I would not wish others to have to sacrifice.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Penalty rates were previously introduced to reward those who sacrificed their weekends and evenings which they would spend with their family or friends. To remove these rates there will be no incentive for people to make this sacrifice and consequently people will choose not to fill these shifts.

Recently within a section of my workplace no body was coming in on weekend evenings, which tend to be our busiest time. It was decided that to encourage staff to attend the penalty would be raised. These shifts are now filled. Hence the industries and the economy on weekends could come to a halt.

Please say no to abolishing penalty rates.

Submitted by

Denis Roscoe

Saturday 15th of September 2012