

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 teacher, currently earning around \$1500 per week.

As an older citizen with a significant mortgage in these uncertain times, I am concerned about my financial future.

If penalty rates were abolished, many of the students, whom I teach, who are working on School-based apprenticeships and traineeships in the hospitality industry, will face an even more uncertain financial future.

My weekends are important to me because they are times when I spend time with my family and in recreation, to recharge from the challenges of the previous week, so that I am able to face the challenges of the coming week. For workers who lose out on that

precious time, because they work on weekends so that we can relax, there should be other compensation - financial and time-based.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates, as they provide the oil that enables weekend workers to continue in their chosen professions, with some degree of stability in their family lives. Lower weekend rates would result in workers leaving these professions to pursue other careers that would allow them better family lives with better compensation. We would be all the poorer for this outcome.

Submitted by

RJohn Carter

Thursday 20th of September 2012