

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 support worker, currently earning around \$900 per week.

I am married with two young step-children and we have a mortgage.

If penalty rates were abolished...

I don't currently work on the weekend.

My weekends are important to me because...

Weekends are important for family reasons and for home-maintenance/ gardening.

Also, the children's schooling is interconnected with my work because I need to drive

them to school. If I had to drive the kids 40 km to school on a weekday without actually being on my way to work, because my work was eg Wed - Sun, that would make things really difficult, both in terms of time and money. My wife has worked until recently, school and after-school care is all structured around a Mon to Fri week.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Abolition of penalty rates would impact unfairly on hospitality workers, and I believe in net-terms this will impact negatively on the economy as well as personally on the workers. It is the thin edge of the wedge, the weekend is not outdated because all schools work on a Mon - Fri week, most of us have kids, and unless you flexi-time our public schools (unlikely) the whole mortgage and family thing very quickly becomes un-doable.

Submitted by

Peter Cartwright

Wednesday 19th of September 2012