

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 University Timetabling Officer, currently earning around \$28 per hour.

I am a 36 year old man with a small family, including my 2 year old daughter. I pay a mortgage and keep my family afloat with one income and it is tough.

If penalty rates were abolished, the people who wait tables on me at the small cafe I take my family to at the weekend would be less content with their working lives and as a result would pass on this discontent through bad service to me, a customer at this junction in time. Perhaps one day my daughter may work in a small coffee shop or restaurant and may need to work on the weekend. How would this work out for her, if her already meagre prospective income were further eroded? Would she ever have any chance at establishing financial independence?

My weekends are important to me because I spend them with my partner and my daughter and have precious bonding time to strengthen our family ties. Imagine being forced to work for peanuts on weekends and be denied this priceless bonding time!

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. If financially, things became tougher, then I may need to take a 2nd job myself on weekends only to be paid a pittance without the protection of penalty rates and the inevitable further erosion of income tax, negating that 2nd income altogether. Would I bother? Would anyone want to bother working on the weekend if it were treated just the same as any other day. Perhaps businesses would be forced to close because people would not see the point in giving up their weekend, only to earn next to nothing! This would only serve to damage small communities.

Submitted by

Max Lloyd-West

Thursday 20th of September 2012