

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 linesman, currently earning around \$30.00 per hour.

I am single, with a mortgage, in my early 50's.

If penalty rates were abolished...My employer likes me to work weekends frequently, and because I am in a fairly strong Union, we are paid Penalty Rates. I have friends and relatives, however, who have worked in various Hospitality, Food Service and Retail jobs. I know that these jobs are usually lower paid already, and almost always involve weekend work, split shifts etc. What is fair about taking penalty rates from these workers?

My weekends are important to me because...My girlfriend works Monday to Friday, as

do a lot of my friends. Weekends are the only time we can socialise and catch up. Most social events are on weekends. Penalty rates go some way to compensate me for missing these events. I am often too tired to go out after working on a Saturday, I also have to save myself for work on Sunday. What is fair about taking away my Penalty Rates?

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I miss time with my Family, my Girlfriend and my friends due to weekend work. I have to forego Social and Entertainment Events because of work commitments on weekends. Why shouldn't we be compensated fairly with higher rates for weekend work?

Submitted by

Ross Harper

Thursday 20th of September 2012