

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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## Submission to the Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business-Penalty Rates Exemption) Bill 2012

I'm very concerned that Senator Xenophon's amendment to the fair work bill will result in Saturday and Sunday being treated like just another day of the working week. The weekends are a time to be spent with family and friends. Whether it's going to the footy, visiting friends, or volunteering in a local community service, for more than 60 years the weekend has been protected by penalty rates. Penalty rates are an important part of keeping the weekend special and compensating those who do have to work. This amendment to the Bill will dramatically change our weekends, effectively turning them into just another working day, cutting people's take-home pay and placing large burdens onto workers and their families. It is thoroughly unfair to workers who have to give up weekends when their children and friends are home just to make ends meet and will further disadvantage them. These workers need to be duly compensated with penalty rates which are rightfully deserved.

Regards,

David Stone

Submitted by

David Stone

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