

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 Health Professional, currently earning around \$40 per hour.

I am a sole parent to my children, aged 21, 18, 16, and 14. They are all starting out in their working lives. Their only options for work in our area are weekend hospitality and retail jobs. These positions are invariably weekend and evening positions and are poorly paid.

Removing penalty rates for weekend work will further discourage young people from seeking work and gaining experience and seriously disadvantage my family. It would further disadvantage the many people I meet through work who depend on penalty rates to put food on the table.

Weekend work is vital to the income status of many individuals and families. The loss of penalty rates would add to the incidence of poverty and burden on the welfare sector.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Cutting penalty rates would lead to further disadvantage in the community.

Submitted by

Shan Williams

Tuesday 18th of September 2012