

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 machine operator, currently earning around \$27 per hour.

I have worked a night shift now for about 16 years. I would love to work day shift so I could spend more time with my family. I started night shift because the penalty rates allowed my wife to only work part time and spend more time raising our two daughters.

If penalty rates were abolished there would be no benefit in working the night shift, yet I would not be able to get transferred to day shift, so I would have the disrupted life style but no financial recognition.

My weekends are important to me because it is the one time of the week I get to spend

quality time with my wife, and is an opportunity to catch up with the rest of my family and friends. During the week I am totally anti-social as I sleep all day and rarely get a chance to see anyone.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I have set up my life on a pay packet that includes penalty rates and I would not be able to meet my mortgage commitments or pay off my car loan without the loading, and all the sacrifice of giving up my quality family time would amount to nothing.

Submitted by

Peter Howlett

Monday 17th of September 2012