

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

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

I am currently self employed but have worked for many years in retail and for Australia Post.

I am vehemently opposed to any reduction in penalty rates for workers on weekends and public holidays. Cutting these rates amounts to a further diminution of workers' right to a fair go, particularly in sectors where employees are already vulnerable to their employer's whim and facing escalating casualisation, such as in retail. It is not a legitimate economic issue as it is demand and competition that drive opening hours and it flies in the face of oft-stated and bona-fide concerns for promoting a healthy work/life balance which strengthens our social fabric.

Submitted by

Johnny Batchelor

Monday 24th of September 2012