

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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 casual employee, working as a pharmacy assistant, currently earning around \$12 per hour.

I am a full time high school student.

If penalty rates were abolished I would be giving up one whole day of my weekend for little financial gain. I pay for my own mobile phone, clothing and entertainment to help my family with their many expenses.

My weekends are important to me because...as a full time student I only get Saturday free and I have homework and chores as well.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. People deserve to be rewarded for giving

up their time when others are able to spend their weekends with family, relaxing, catching up with chores and errands that I have to do weekdays. No-one will want to work on weekends if the financial incentive of penalty rates is taken away. We are NOT like third world nations where people are paid a pittance for their efforts. There is a flow-on effect as higher wages means people are able to spend more and support business and contribute to the tax base of the economy. If we don't get paid much we can't spend as much and we don't contribute as much to tax so how will that help the economy? The casual workforce is often working mothers as well so this decision would also disadvantage women so to me appears to be a sexist given women already are generally underpaid in the workforce.

Keep penalty rates and ensure women and students, in particular, are not even more disadvantaged than they already are.

Submitted by

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