

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 casual employee, working as a Musician, currently earning around N/A per hour.

I'm a pensioner, working part time as a musician. Neither the pension or the music industry pays a living wage, but it's better than sitting around.

If penalty rates were abolished... My brother is a shift worker and if he lost his shift allowances and penalty rates his graveyard shift job wouldn't be worth doing.

My weekends are important to me because... It doesn't matter to me now, I'm divorced and my daughter is grown up. But back in the day I missed out on EVERY weekend activity because musicians can only usually work on weekends. That's my choice, I realize, but I reckon there would be plenty of families who would miss one or both

parents if they had to work weekends on a regular basis . . . which is exactly what will happen if penalty rates are abolished. Every employee will have to take their turn at working weekends . . . or shift work when shift allowances are gone as well.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. The sole reason for scrapping penalty rates for weekend work is so the businesses can make more money at the expense of their employees' well being. The weekends are the busiest time in hospitality and retail, therefore I submit that the businesses CAN afford to keep paying penalty rates for weekend work.

Submitted by

James McAllister

Wednesday 19th of September 2012