

Please consider:

Working longer than 10 hours in 24 already attracts penalty rates, as it should.

Working more than 5 days out of seven also already attracts penalty rates as it should.

Neither of these two conditions are open for negotiation, so don't make out they are, and then diminish the effects of the new amendments by underlining that these enshrined conditions won't be changed. The objection is that Saturdays and Sundays will no longer attract penalty rates for shop assistants. This is being done so that the legislation that was passed AGAINST the WILL of WEST AUSTRALIAN VOTERS will become possible to put into practice by small traders at the expense of the average worker. Premier Barnett has been determined to implement his vision of seven day trading in the suburbs of Perth, regardless of what the voters (read workers) of this state want. Most of us are happy to not shop on Sundays so that shop assistants, who incidentally earn very little, get to have some time to them-selves or alternatively earn a little more as recompense.

When I was younger and had less choice in jobs, I was a shop assistant. It is neither rewarding in job satisfaction nor in providing a decent income stream. Now that I have more life experience behind me, I would not return to that profession if it paid twice as much as it does. Please consider, would any of you, sitting on this committee? I bet the answer is NO!

Don't make life more difficult for those who work in this industry. Shops have choice in whether they will open on Sundays or not – they don't HAVE to! Let them stay closed and give the underpaid shop assistants the break they deserve.

Yours Sincerely

Pauline Morrison