

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 technician, currently earning around 50 per hour.

I have a two children, a mortgage and my mother is ill.

If penalty rates were abolished this would mean a loss of 15-20% of my gross income, this would mean that it would take me 8 years longer to pay off my mortgage, which will mean I have far less for retirement and would be more likely to be dependent upon government services. Also I probably couldn't afford to send my children to a private school, nor keep up with private health insurance.

My weekends are important to me because this is where I get real time to spend with my children, where I get time to unwind from the pressure of work, where I can attend

working bees at the local school and take my kids to their sport. I have missed my son scoring a hat trick at soccer due to weekend work

I urge the committee to maintain penalty rates. Without the extra income I get through overtime and weekend work, I would never have made the financial commitments I have. Probably would not have had a second child. Losing penalty rates would be a loss to the whole community because myself and others would need to work longer hours to make ends meet.

Submitted by

Andrew Forrest

Monday 24th of September 2012