

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 permanent employee, working as a police officer, currently earning around \$45.00 per hour.

I am a single, white male, whose jobs requires I work with the Sydney Metropolitan area. As such I have had to purchase an apartment in Victoria Park Zetland, leaving me a very very large mortgage on a single income. I have made several attempts to obtain a transfer away from the city without success. I have been with the NSW Police Force for 25 years and I am at the rank of Sergeant. My annual income is a mere \$90,000 per annum. I earn a further \$14,000 in leave loading and penalty rates. I do not earn the wage of a politician. You may have to work weekends and long hours, but you get a lot more in wages than us. Give me \$160,000+ and I too will work the hours without complaint.

As a NSW Police Officer, I have already lost weekend penalty shifts in our past wage negotiations. I work three out of four weekends which has a large impact on my social life. The only penalty shift I receive now is for working shift work hours between 06.00pm to 06.00am. I suggest to you these hours are very unsociable and have a huge impact on my personal health. If you were to abolish the penalty rates associated with these shifts, I can suggest to you I will not be working these ungodly hours and it is with certain the sick rate would dramatically increase.

My weekends are important to me because it is the only time I get to catch up with my family and friends. The majority of my friends work Monday to Friday and they at times become frustrated with my working weekends. Even with giving up the penalty shifts for weekends my wage is minimal for the job I perform. The Government has bled us dry. We have no more to give.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. The work force who largely rely on penalty rates are those who are paid a minimal wage already. The loss of these penalty rates will have a large impact on the ability of the work force to remain working in the city areas and it is my belief the economy will suffer, especially in this current economic climate.

Submitted by

Geoff BYRON

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