

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 Customer Service Officer, currently earning around 30 per hour.

I have four children, a mortgage on a house that is under renovation.

If penalty rates were abolished people such as my daughter, who works in retail would not only be losing their weekend but also the little financial reward that makes giving up the weekend worthwhile and less painful.

My weekends are important to me because I spend time with my family, perform house renovations, do the weekly shopping, watch my son play cricket and catch up with extended family.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. We need to stop going backwards. One hundred years ago workers were treated as if they had no right to a life. The changes since then have made for a more worker supported, family oriented Australian workforce. Let's keep it that way.

Submitted by

Maria Dege

Wednesday 19th of September 2012