

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 Training and Recruitment Leader, currently earning around \$50 000 per year.

I work in a 24/7 call centre. Most the the people I work with are single and rely on penalty rates on the weekend to cover the cost of living. Most of my work colleagues have expressed it would not be worth their while to work on weekends without the penalty rates. In our industry we rely on staff being available on weekends as this is our peak business period.

If penalty rates were abolished all our staff would only wish to work Monday to Friday day shift as it would not be fair or equitable to work 24/7 without being duly compensated with night shift penalties and weekend penalties.

My weekends are important to me because it allows me time to catch up with family and friends.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.

Submitted by

Debbie Ellis

Wednesday 19th of September 2012