

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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 IT Analyst, currently earning around 80 per year.

I have the package: Car, house, wife, kids, mortgage. Basically uppermiddle class white family man.

It is simple, the weekend is the weekend. If you wish to be open then you pay the penalty. I took the decision years ago to stop working weekends and I took the financial hit but I could afford it. There are many out there who just can't. I remember what it was like working hospitality and part jobs. The work and hours are terrible. If there is no recompense for this then your life is just miserable.

The weekend is when we relax and recharge for the rest of the week. The beauty of

the weekend is that everyone has the same time off. Those that work shift work miss out on this time. They may have other time off but it will not coincide with the spare time of their children, when sporting and leisure events are held and when everything else is dedicated to having time off. My wife regularly has to work the weekend with her job and I know that she misses the time I get to spend with my kids and friends on camping trips and general activities. She deserves to be compensated for this missed time. Would you have her work xmas day for \$12/hr?

It is simple, the weekend is the weekend. I travel a lot for business and pleasure and one of the truly great things about Aus is our balance of work and play. We got the 40hr week before anyone, our pay is mostly well suited to our occupation and the weekend has not yet been trodden all over by business. Once we start treating the weekend as the rest of the week where do we go from there? Australians already work the most amount of unpaid overtime in the western world. Can we afford to reduce the amount that true battlers and people just starting out in life get paid for the hours they actually get paid? I believe it is truly an Australian values issue.

Submitted by

Karl Crisafulli

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