

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 Physiotherapist, currently earning around \$53 per hour.

I have a mortgage a wife and three boys, two at school one at home. To help with the care of the boys I work many weekends so that I am home after school.

If penalty rates were abolished my take home pay would be severely affected to the point where I would have to remove my children from the local catholic parish primary school and put them in the public state school.

Because I work many weekends I have missed many of boys soccer games and special family events. Weekends are family time and without the financial reward for the loss of that time I would not bother doing weekend work.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. If retailers can't afford the pay rates they can choose not to open and maybe we will see a re-emergence of the iconic Aussie corner store to cater for those weekend essentials.

Submitted by

Lawrence Caruana

Wednesday 19th of September 2012