

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 casual employee, working as a plant operator, currently earning around 24 per hour.

I have a family and all the associated costs that go along with that.

If penalty rates were abolished, I would struggle even further to pay bills. At our level of income 0 - 3000 dollars makes a big difference in our ability to afford a standard of life for our families and possibly start to put a little away - possibly to invest.

Business are trying to cut costs understandably, but no-one is cutting my costs, I dont have the power to tell the power company, the water company, the school, the university, the fuel company, the health care providers, the taxman that their bills are too high and to cut them in half. If they cut their costs down far enough I would work for "\$2 a day" but my costs would need to be "\$1.50 a day"

Weekends are important to everybody. It is a structure of society. For the people who are loaded with \$\$\$ it does not matter because they can holiday/catch up with people/ go to an event when THEY want to. For the working class when do not have that luxury. We need our weekends to come together as a nation and enjoy people for who they are - not where they sit in their job heirachy. We can enjoy our families all together not sporadically and disjointadly. We can spend special events together. Penalty rates are there to deter big business from forcing people to work on weekends and to make it worthwhile for the worker to give up our treasured rest time. If business cant afford to pay penalty rates, ITS NOT a viable business!!

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.They keep our society structure in place ( which are already being eroded) This will send the gap between the have's and havenot's wider. If business want to save money, lower our costs and we can then lower yours

Submitted by

Jason Clement

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