

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 carer, currently earning around 22 per hour.

I currently work as a care worker and a student at _____ University. I often work weekends and night shifts as the penalty rates mean I can work less hours during the week, which gives me more time to focus on my studies.

If penalty rates were abolished, I would have to work more hours in order to support myself in order to pay rent, utilities, rego and vehicle costs, student fees, etc. As a result, I'd have less time to study and what little free time I already have to socialise and catch up with my family and friends would likely be gone.

My weekends are important to me because it gives me time to catch up on my study and seeing friends and family that I don't get a chance to do throughout the week.

Slashing penalty rates would mean working longer hours on the weekend and compromising my other life priorities.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. The higher costs of living, combined with the stress of my work load and study load is tough enough to manage. A substantial percentage of my income is from penalty rates and I don't know how I'll manage without them.

Submitted by

Ryan Collins

Friday 14th of September 2012