

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 Plasma Fractionation Team Leader, currently earning around 35 per hour.

I currently have a half a million dollar mortgage and are looking to get married and start a family

If penalty rates were abolished, there would be no point in me doing 12-hour rotating shift work with 2 day shifts, 2 night shifts of 12-hours each. I would lose my lively hood and my home.

Covering weekends and public holidays I also sacrifice family and friends birthdays, weddings, christenings and other important events to do my job of supplying life saving bio products to the community.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I understand the need for wage rise restraint but that is different to completely cutting people wages. Most people, especially in small businesses need this extra penalty rate to make it worth while on missing out on life.

The committee must acknowledge that people who work over weekends are doing a community service above and beyond those who just work the 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday usual. We must not turn our society into one in which the low paid and already suppressed are taken advantage of by being forced to work weekends with no benefit.

There is a way to understand this "community service" that I am talking about, come and work with me one night shift on a Saturday during a family event from 6pm until 6am...

Submitted by

Andreas Gavriel

Saturday 15th of September 2012