

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 Library Technician, currently earning around \$31.9069 per hour.

I am a single wage earner with two daughters paying off a \$350,000 mortgage. I am 59 years of age and have worked damned hard to get to this point. I shall probably have to work until I am seventy if health affords me this time. I rely on overtime to make ends meet. I also work night shifts and receive shift allowance. What is happening to our Christian values? I thought Sundays were a time of rest to go to church if one wished with family and socialise with friends. When I am not rostered to work the weekend I spend it cleaning the house etc and then entertaining friends at home or socialising with them. We all work weekdays so the only time we can get together, relax, unwind, is on the weekend.

If penalty rates were abolished... together with shift allowances I would stand to lose \$350-\$400 per fortnight. I would not be able to pay basic bills such as water, rates, electricity, gas, phone, car servicing house and contents insurance, petrol, vet costs etc. THIS IS NOT INCLUDING MORTGAGE REPAYMENTS. The cost of living has risen in everything one does and you want to add the biggest burden of all to reduce the pay of hard working Australians.

My weekends are important to me because...I catch up with friends and go watch sports. I have often missed out on Anzac Day (my late brother was a Vietnam Vet), Oct long weekend, Mothers day, Fathers day because I have been rostered on those days. Some long weekends I am rostered to work on the Sat and Monday so you only get one day of the long weekend to do what needs doing and try to meet up with friends.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Weekends are precious. I am a single parent with two daughters and when I am not working a weekend day I try to see them, (one lives in Wollongong) or have a barbie with friends. It is unbearable to think this bonding, catching up time will be treated as any other day. Senator you are ripping away the essence of all that is represented in the Australian weekend. NO ONE SHOULD HAVE THAT MUCH POWER, except God and he is mightier than you Senator!

Submitted by

Vera Kaliczinsky

Friday 14th of September 2012