

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees
on Education, Employment and
Workplace Relations
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

24 September 2012

Dear Committee Secretary

Fair Work Amendment (Small Business Penalty Rate Exemption) Bill 2012

I am an owner/operator of a small hospitality business in Toowoomba employing less than twenty full time equivalent employees.

I wish to provide my absolute support for the passage of this Bill through Parliament as my labour costs have blown out since the introduction of the Restaurant Industry Award regulating wages and penalty rates. As an owner operator I already work hands on within the business and am consistently making changes to structure, pricing and operation in order to accommodate for the new labour costs. The effects of these labour costs are drastic to small business operation, impacting heavily.

If penalty rates were abolished not only would my business be more viable on weekends I would consider employing more employees, casual and full time.

Consumers expect restaurants and cafes to trade 24/7 yet this can only be achieved if it is commercially viable to trade through de-regulation of the mandatory penalty rates applied under the Modern Industrial Award system. Business is always a tough game but we have not felt considered in our specific industry with the current adjustments to Fair Work.

If I can be of any further assistance to clarification of this bill or the hospitality industry I am very much available to do so.

Yours faithfully

Jake Stewart

Business Owner/Manager

metro
Cafe & events