

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

Dear Committee Secretary

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

I run a small bar/restaurant employing less than twenty full time equivalent employees.

I wish to provide my absolute support for the passage of this Bill through Parliament.

The cost of labour with penalty rates on weekends and public holidays have deterred me opening at these times, despite growing customer demand, and improved extended trading hours recently introduced.

Customers have strongly submitted to me that if we **did** open during the weekend and public holiday periods, that it would be unlikely that they would support the business if they were compelled to pay additional price to subsidize additional wage costs incurred.

So a no win-win outcome only lose-lose !!

The abolishment of penalty rates would encourage additional opening hours, and necessitate employing additional staff.

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.

Yours faithfully

Steve Smith

The logo for Ecucina, featuring the word "écucina" in a stylized, handwritten-style font. The "é" is in a light brown color, and the rest of the word is in a dark red color.

Ecucina Bar/Restaurant

Perth, Western Australia

30/09/12