

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 permanent employee, working as a library clerk, currently earning around 26.00 per hour.

I am 57 years old and I am supporting a husband who has not worked regularly since battling two bouts of cancer. We rely on my earnings to cover the mortgage, private health cover and the escalating cost of daily life

If penalty rates were abolished, I would lose the loading I get for Saturdays and evenings amounting to about \$6000.00 per annum

My weekends are important to me because I get to watch my grandchildren play sport, catch up with family and friends and relax.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Many families rely on the extra money penalty rates provide to meet basic household expenses. In general people on these penalty rates are some of the lower paid workers who cannot afford to be squeezed. Its only fair that people who work 'unsociable' hours be compensated extra for that. I would like to think that all Australians fight to preserve a workplace condition that was fought for and has existed for many years for good reason.

Submitted by

Jennifer Reed

Thursday 13th of September 2012