

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 ssa, currently earning around 19.38 per hour.

I am the wife of a farmer and I retired from work 3 yrs ago as my husband is not young and needs help with major tasks on the farm e.g. mustering, drenching, marking calves. Weekends, when other help was available, I and my eldest son who works in retail were unavailable. I have since been offered my old job back working Mon-Fri and have returned to work.

If penalty rates were abolished, very few staff would work weekends. Personally, quality of life and family are more important than money at my stage of life so I would not work weekends.

My weekends are important to me because..of family committments. I have missed countless family events over the years due to work committments on a week or working very late at night.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Why shouldn't staff be compensated for all the things they miss and parents working weekends affects the children and family life. My granddaughter was going to swimming lessons but has had to stop as Mum has another small baby and Dad has to work. This family has a mortgage so the extra money is relied on. In Canberra where a large proportion of the population are Public Servants working Mon-Fri you are socially isolated working weekends.

Submitted by

Lyn Gumm

Saturday 29th of September 2012