

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 Teacher, currently earning around 60 per hour.

I am married with two school aged children, both of whom will soon have retail part time jobs.

If penalty rates were abolished my kids, like many secondary school students, will either be forced to work more hours on weekends to earn the equivalent amount of income as they currently earn, or work more mid week evenings. It's bad enough losing family hours on weekends and family meals in the evening mid-week, but this proposal will result in more time being lost to kids working at checkouts. I have so many students who already miss homework and study tasks because retail stores are open every night until late and our kids are rostered on. Managers tell our kids if they

don't work they can easily be replaced - hence the kids work, are late for school or arrive tired and unprepared for class. This is bad enough without them being to more hours. How are these proposals good for families, especially our kids. Profits over people! Morally wrong.

My weekends are important to me because it is the only time we as an extended family can be together to enjoy life.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. It is the Australian way to give everyone a fair go. Ending penalty rates continues the Americanisation of our culture. Life for the vast majority of Australians is not about business profit, it's about people. I want a fair go for my kids so they only work 4 hours over the weekend, not 8 or 10.

Submitted by

Jason Egan

Saturday 15th of September 2012