



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 business employing less than twenty full time equivalent employees.

I have run my business for the past 6 years and in the last couple of years, we have suffered terribly with the Global Financial Crisis, Cyclone Yasi & Queensland Floods, all resulting in a massive downturn in customer numbers. We have seen 2 of our 4 major resorts in our town close and are now unsure as to our future here. Being a tourist town, we must have our doors open 7 days a week, as everyone here is on holidays, and the current penalty rates are crippling our business.

I wish to provide my absolute support for the passage of the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business Penalty Rate Exemption) Bill through Parliament as my labour costs have blown out since the introduction of the Restaurant Industry Award regulating wages and penalty rates. If penalty rates were abolished not only would my business be more viable on weekends I would consider employing more casual employees.

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

Michelle Wenden
Whet Restaurant

Matthew J Wenden Trading As Whet
Lot 1 Cape Tribulation Road, Cape Tribulation Qld 4873
Phone: (07) 4098 0007 or Fax: (07) 4098 0009 ABN 45 992 536 708
Email: whetcapetrib@gmail.com