

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 security technician, currently earning around 25.00 per hour.

My family is just me and two rescue dogs.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would NEVER have been able to afford to buy my own house. By working all these years of shift I was able to save a deposit and finally buy my own place. It's a tiny little house, but I love it.

My weekends are important to me because...that is the only time i get to catch up with my family and friends. By working shift for all these years I have missed out on so many important times with my family friends, and missed out on being able to play regular sport, or volunteer for the RSPCA on a regular basis.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I have missed so many things because I have worked on weekends, including spending time with a beloved family member before they passed. It has been a big sacrifice to work these hours, but I did it so I could own my own little house and not have to spend the rest of my life with the insecurity and stress of renting. I am proud that I can support myself and pay all my own bills. Although it has cost me a lot to miss all the special family times, (and I am actually crying now to think of some times I did miss) - it was important to me to have my own place to live and be able to fully support myself.

Submitted by

helen bell

Saturday 15th of September 2012