

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 administration , currently earning around 18 per hour.

I was a single mum and have a mortgage, working extra shifts on the weekend with penalty rates when my children were with there dad helped me to get the extra basic items required for my children's day to day needs.

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If penalty rates were abolished... I think a lot of people would be disadvantaged, as people won't volunteer to work on the weekends and will be forced to work. This will cause anxiety for people who want to spend time with their families and don't need any extra cash. At the moment with penalty rates it is the people that want to work and sacrifice their weekends for extra cash that work, due to the penalty rates

you have no trouble getting volunteers to work on weekends.

My weekends are important to me because I spend it with my family.... with the changing world family values and time spent together is getting less and less. We can't lose sight of our weekends spending it with family and friends. My children work on weekends and it is getting harder and harder to spend time together. I think whoever works on the weekend should be paid penalty rates for making that sacrifice.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. We need to keep the weekend as a WEEKEND and not turn it into a WEEKDAY!. WEEKEND: Saturday and Sunday. WEEKDAY: Monday to Friday. That's the difference. Soon it will be only WEEKDAY: Sunday to Saturday. We have lost a lot of our identity as Australians, please don't take away our Aussie weekend!.

Submitted by

Jennifer Levett

Friday 14th of September 2012