

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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## Submission to the Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business-Penalty Rates Exemption) Bill 2012

I writing this submission opposing the proposal by Senator Xenophon. Although, the proposed amendment to weekend penalty rates, is put forward to help small businesses, of less than 20 people. This sounds alright in Principle, but exactly what will constitute a small business, a franchise of a large Fast Food Chain, or a small supermarket of less than 20 staff belonging to one of the two largest supermarket chains .

If this legislation passes, both Houses, it will be the thin edge of the wedge to see weekend penalty rates, disappear altogether . AS the 2 large Supermarket chains, would soon be lobbying hard, to get the weekend employment rules to suit them. It took many years of hard work and negotiating, to get the penalty rates received by workers today. This legislation of Senator Xenophon, if successful, would lead to the complete Elimination of weekend and other entitlements for workers in a very short time, in my opinion.

I urge that the Senate Committee inquiring into this proposal rejects it in its entirety.

Sincerely,

John Fitzpatrick

Submitted by

John Fitzpatrick

Saturday 15th of September 2012