

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees
on Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia



20-09-2012

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 wish to provide my absolute support for the passage of this Bill through Parliament as my business would like to be able to trade on weekends. We are currently closed on Saturday and Sunday, turning away business as it is simply not viable for us to trade on those days. As such, our employees are missing out on shifts that they would be able to work due to us being closed, this results in them having to work late nights while still studying.

If penalty rates were abolished not only would my business be more viable on weekends I would have to employ more casual and permanent part time employees. If we were able to trade on the weekend, we would be looking at hiring 3-4 more casual employees as well as 2 more permanent part time employees and 1 more full time employee.

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.

Kind Regards

Tony Bailey

Proprietor

Rigoni's Bistro