

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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 union official, currently earning around \$1380 per week.

I'm in a lucky situation whereby I no longer have a mortgage and I earn a comfortable salary, however that hasn't always been the case. By working weekends and shift, I was able to purchase a house.

If penalty rates were abolished, many of the members I represent would struggle to get by, many of them work un-social hours to enable them to maintain house repayments and have the occasional holiday.

My weekends are important to me because, they are days that I get to spend time with family and friends, previously when I have been required to work weekends I have

missed social occasions. Although this is an inconvenience, being paid penalty rates goes some way to making up for it.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates for the reasons outlined in my submission, many people rely on them just to get by and without them they would be placed in a precarious financial situation.

Submitted by

Darren Dwyer

Friday 14th of September 2012