

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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Australia

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

I am very anxious about moves to remove penalty rates. Some people in our society have the security of a Full Time job. However, many are not so fortunate, and have jobs that do not pay well. If penalty rates are removed, these workers will be further disadvantaged, and that is totally unfair, given that most FT workers have their weekends to enjoy. The whole community has a responsibility to those who are often struggling to survive, in jobs where many employers are ready to exploit them if possible. I was speaking with a student who has a PT job in a fast food outlet,

and who is also trying to complete a TAFE qualification. When he asked for hours that would work around his TAFE course, they gave him a 10pm to 6am shift on a regular basis rather than a mix of shifts, and said he could not reduce any hours without losing his job altogether.

He is constantly tired and afraid to discuss his situation with them further for fear of losing his PT work. I urge the Senate not to remove penalty rates because that only

serves Big Business, not our workers, who have a heavy load to carry already.

Submitted by

Ellen van Haren

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