

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 employee, working as a theatre technician, currently earning around \$27.00 per hour.

I am a semi-retired mortgage holder, who has always worked at the middle to lower end of the wage scale, and penalties and overtime have always made a very significant difference to my moderate income.

If penalty rates were abolished I would lose about one quarter to one third of my income.

(How many parliamentarians would accept that, I wonder?!)

My days off (particularly Sundays) are important to me because, as a non-continuous shift worker, it is very difficult to arrange social activities at times that suit partner, friends and family.

I strongly believe that 365-day trading (particularly by large organisations) should be discouraged, as our society needs more time when the normal frenetic working/buying pace is put aside.

As someone who often works on public holidays (as a public servant) I know how very much more pleasant a public holiday is when only public services and entertainment are available. Even for someone working, the 'atmosphere' is entirely different, and happens far too rarely nowadays.

I believe every Sunday should be like this.

For the sake of all low-paid wage earners and shift workers, and for the health of society in general, I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.

Sincerely,

Alynn Pratt.

Submitted by

Alynn Pratt

Wednesday 19th of September 2012