

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

PO Box 6100

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 casual employee, working as a EEN, currently earning around 27 per hour.

I am paying rent as cannot afford to buy a unit. I would like to study to become an RN and work casually on weekends. I have postponed returning to Uni for nxt year as I cannot afford to pay all my rent, bills, car exp etc

If penalty rates were abolished I would be unable to fulfill my dream of becoming a Registered Nurse as I could not afford to study and pay my Rent, Bills, Car Expenses, etc. With penalty rates and my savings I am hoping to go to Uni in 2014 or 2015. I estimate I would loose up to \$20,000 per year.

My weekends are important to me because it is the time when I can catch up with my friends and enjoy some social interaction. Being single with no kids this is Very

important for my overall health, wellbeing and SOUL. It is 100% necessary for me to keep the dreaded start of depression at arms length. I have missed many social events including watching this weekends footy grand finals with my friends as I am working afternoon shifts this weekend.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates for all the reasons I have stated above. It has taken me to now at 54yrs of age to study, work hard and finally find a job I enjoy that does not pay a huge salary. \$25.18 p/hr. My penalty rates help top up my wage and having the uncertainty of being casually employed as no new full-time positions have been advertised in the last 3mths, it is essential in helping me save for times when work is scarce and means I do not have to get any Centrelink assistance. Not yet anyway!!!!

Submitted by

Stephen Macdonald

Wednesday 26th of September 2012