

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 permanent employee, working as a Lab Technician, currently earning around 27.70 per hour.

I am a devoted father of two and a husband. We have a mortgage, two cars, and both our children are in childcare. We both work.

If penalty rates were abolished, I would possibly have to find a second source of income, or my wife would have to work extra hours to meet our current financial commitments. Prices continually rise on food, electricity, water, fuel - and every cent is important and accounted for. I fear that should penalty rates be abolished, my family life would suffer enormously.

My weekends are important to me because it is my time to be with my family, my

mates, and escape from the grind of day to day work. Having to work on weekends means I miss out on a lot of time watching my kids grow up, or leaving my footy and cricket teams in the lurch. Sports aren't played on weekdays, they are played on weekends. Kids are not home from school on weekdays, they are home on weekends.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Saturday and Sunday are not "normal" days. They are special days that need protection. If I am required to give up the time I want to spend with my family, because my company wants me to work on weekends, I should be looked after. This bill is a bad idea, and has the propensity to destroy families across Australia. Once a family culture is destroyed, the community, and eventually the country won't be far behind.

Submitted by

David Bremner

Friday 14th of September 2012