

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 machine operator, currently earning around \$22 per hour.

I am a 30 year old male with a mortgage and a baby on the way. I play violin in my spare time.

Wages are already low enough. It is repugnant when people get paid wages that are too low, and then get told they are lucky to have a job. For some people, penalty rates are the only thing making the difference between an OK wage and a sub par wage. People deserve to make a decent living if they work hard.

Let's face it. The only reason employers want penalty rates scrapped, is so they can make more money for THEMSELVES, not so they can "help" more people get work.

My weekends are important to me because we should not be living for work. That is not what life is about. I want to spend time with my partner, my child and my friends. I want to relax, to read books, to enjoy a glass of wine and quiet thinking. All of these things make life worth living.... not work.

We are NOT just a commodity to be used up in order to make the rich richer. We don't live to work. We are human beings who deserve quality of life.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.

We are not slaves.

We do not live for work.

We do not want to be paid less so the fat cats can make more profit for themselves and their shareholders.

Why don't you try living on 43,000 per year, with kids and a mortgage? I bet you wouldn't want to.

Submitted by

Daniel Conway

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