

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 employee, working as a organiser, currently earning around \$50 per hour.

Main wage earner, wife working part time and two children no longer at home.

If penalty rates were abolished both my daughter and her partner, who both work jobs that pay penalties due to unsocial hours and weekend work would lose a substantial part of their income. They, like many young couples have a large mortgage.

My weekends are important to me because to have time with my family, play sport, entertain and have a break from the working week. I used to work a job that worked Saturday mornings and I missed a great deal of my children's sport and personal leisure time.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. If penalty rates are removed then employers will have the absolute ability to work and roster staff on shifts 24hrs per day, 365 days per year. People in an increasing number insecure jobs would be required to work unsocial and unreasonable hours or risk losing their job. Others with children of school age would have no time to spend with them if they were required to work every weekend.

Penalty rates are the brake on employers who want to work their staff on unreasonable or unhealthy rosters.

Submitted by

TONY HEATHWOOD

Thursday 27th of September 2012