

Dear Committee Secretary,

Fair Work Amendment (Small Business Penalty Rate Exemption) Bill 2012

I own and run a small business employing less than 10 full-time equivalent employees. I wish to provide my absolute support for the passage of this Bill through Parliament. My labour costs would have multiplied since the introduction of the Restaurant Industry Award regulating wages and penalty rates had I not decided to reduce the hours my café/restaurant operates and reduce the number of employees.

If penalty rates were abolished my business would be more viable on weekends and I would open for longer hours and employ more casual assistance.

Customers anticipate that cafes and restaurants will trade 24/7. This can only be achieved if it is commercially viable. Unless there is de-regulation of the mandatory penalty rates applied under the Modern Industrial Award this cannot happen.

Yours faithfully,

Janet Maclean

Owner and Operator