

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 sales assistant, currently earning around \$610 per week.

I am single and have a mortgage

If penalty rates were abolished it would affect me immensely. I work 3 Saturdays and 2 Sundays a month. I also work till 7 pm most nights and till 9 pm on 2 Thursday nights a month. Penalty rates are being phased in to the award amounts. I currently receive 10% evenings after 6pm and on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays. If penalty rates were removed my income would be decreased considerably. As stated above even with penalty rates my income is low.

My weekends are important to me because that is when most social activities take

place. That is when most birthdays parties, christenings etc, and outings with family and friends take place.

As it is I miss out on many social events and have to plan ahead to try to get time off which is difficult as managers do not want to allow you time off on the weekend.

I dont do any sport even though I would like to get fit, as I have to work 3 Saturdays a month.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. As it is my life revolves around the needs of my employer. I come home late most evenings and miss out on dinner functions. My weekends are spent working and my social life is negatively impacted. On the days that I am off my friends are working. If I go out Saturday evening I have to go home early so I can work the following Sunday.

So basically my social life is heavily compromised. It is only fair that I be remunerated for working such unsociable hours.

I also feel it is important to keep penalty rates as without them wages would be even lower. I am a low income worker why slash my wages even further? How will I make mortgage repayments? I want to live a life with dignity. I do not want to be struggling to make ends meet.

Please dont slash wages!!

Submitted by

Georgina Kategiannis

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