

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 casual employee, working as a Seafarer, currently earning around 25.00 per hour.

I am a defacto with four kids, i have a mortgage and all of my kids are attending high school, doing the work I do I only get to see them for approximately 6 mths of the year in a good year, most time I don't get that I then have to work itinerate jobs to make ends meet, my girlfriend and I continuously go without so as our children get what they need.

If penalty rates were abolished... Then the second job I do would seriously jeopardise the standard of living "couldn't pay the mortgage" therefore this would cut the standard of liveing for us and put added strain on our relationship.

My weekends are important to me because...it enables my wife and I to attend sports events with our children, and if I'm working we can relax in the knowledge that the penalty rates that I receive compensate for hard times when there is no work at all.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates and indeed increase them or look at lowering the average weekly hours with no loss in pay so a more working life conducive to the standard of living an affluent society like Australia deserves, it seems to the average Australian family is always burdened with tightening their belt (. Cuts to penalty rates being the latest attempt) when there is very little consideration given to the maximum profits of the mining / banking industry's . It's always the lowest paid who carry the burden for the ails of the wealthiest wanting to maximise their greed and take all the benefits of the majority of the Australian people's hard work.

Submitted by

Andrew Olsson

Wednesday 19th of September 2012