

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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 barista, currently earning around 20.00 per hour.

I'm a student, paying rent and power bills and trying to get qualifications so I can earn a decent living.

If penalty rates were abolished... it would affect me and most of my fellow students who work weekends because of mid week study commitments. We can only work limited hours and need the penalty rates to even make ends meet. My income would reduce by half if penalty rates were abolished.

My weekends are important to me because...being a music student I try to perform with a band on weekends to gain experience and when I work as well on the weekends, at least it seems worthwhile if i get penalty rates.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Most Australians need their weekends to unwind from working all week and those that need to work on weekends should be suitably paid to compensate for this.

Submitted by

Alan Smith

Thursday 13th of September 2012