

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 personal carer, currently earning around \$20 per hour.

I am close to 65 and will need to retire due to back problems made worse by the personal care work I have been doing for the past 14 years. I am trying to manage on a very low income and and can not save anything. When I am asked to give up my weekend to work, I do it to be part of a team that helps each other and to earn a little bit extra to put away. If you take away penalty rates I will have to say no because I would prefer to stay with my family at the weekend.

If penalty rates were abolished.I would not help my team by filling in. My weekends are worth more than \$20.00 per hour.

My weekends are important to me because I need to spend time with family because they work all week.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.

Submitted by

Joan Cottrell

Saturday 15th of September 2012