

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 retail assistant, currently earning around 17.00 per hour.

I am a student at tafe. I have a mortgage on a small one bedroom house. I work two jobs, one in retail and one in disability support services. I work every weekend in order to maximize my minimum wage. This takes away from my time with friends and family, but I need that money to survive.

If penalty rates were abolished I would lose over \$100 per week. That is almost my entire mortgage payment. I work during the week and on weekends but I can never seem to make ends meet on a frugal lifestyle. Most of my workmates are in the same position.

My weekends are important to me because if I am going to constantly miss out on family occasions and disappoint people, I need it to be worth my while. Without weekend penalty rates, most people I know would not be willing to work them.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Would you give up every, or nearly every weekend without being rewarded financially? Unfortunately, money is essential in our society, and many of us are sacrificing our quality of life to earn enough. I grew up in Sydney, and could barely afford that, even though I worked every weekend since I was a teenager. Even now I live in a country town, it is hard to cover all basic costs. Losing penalty rates for weekends would have a serious impact on my life, and my ability to survive.

Submitted by

Penelope Joy

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