

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 permanent employee, working as a senior scientist, currently earning around 45.00 per hour.

My partner and I have one child, we both work except weekends and have mortgage and bills to pay. Even with two incomes we find it hard to manage the rising cost of living.

I do not work on weekends because I want to spend the weekends with my family and friends. Weekend workers are mostly the lowest paid workers and taking away the penalty rates will make them worst off once again. They deserve to be compensated for the time they are spending at work on weekends and away from their loved ones.

My weekends are important to me because it is the time i can spend with my family

and friends. It is a time to be enjoyed and to relax and recover from the previous week of working.

Most of the family gatherings happen on weekends so it is important to keep the weekends special.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Without it, you might as well close all shops and restaurants because workers will no longer have the incentive to work on weekends knowing that they are sacrificing their time away from their families. It is cruel, unjust and selfish of Mr Xenophon to take this away from weekend workers.

Submitted by

Lou Gacis

Friday 14th of September 2012