

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 Quality Technician, currently earning around 30 per hour.

I am married with one child who is years old. I have a mortgage and this year I have returned to University part time.

I work in an industry where if I work shift work I am compensated with penalty rates. I currently only work one Friday night in three but other people on my worksite work a rotating shift pattern that has penalty rates attached. They rely on these penalty rates as compensation for working odd hours of the day. There are many workers who rely upon the pealty rates as part of their family budget.

My weekends are important to me because this is time I get to spend with my family,

friends and neighbours. When I worked shifts I missed many event's at my daughters school.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I believe that businesses should budget for these penalty rates. The main complaint I have heard around this issue is that businesses cannot afford to stay open on weekends as they cannot pay the penalty rates. I would think that any business would have a business plan and budget that would look at their inputs and outputs and price their service and goods accordingly. Whilst this proposed bill at the moment is just for the retail and catering area I think that if this bill is passed that it will flow on to all areas of society.

Submitted by

Carol Corless

Monday 17th of September 2012