

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 Crane Driver, currently earning around 26 per hour.

I am newly married to my amazing wife and partner of 12 years. We have no kids and unless things change soon I don't ever see kids in our future, we just can't afford them. I'm constantly working away, longer and longer hours every year and my partner needs to work those same long hours to just to break even with our bills.

If penalty rates were abolished it would mean we could no longer afford even the basics. The penalty rates are the difference between default and trading water. My power bill although lower in total units used for the year was 100% more expensive and that was before the carbon tax. Even with our 2 incomes and low expenses we could only just afford to buy a house 50kms from the CBD, it's so far away from

anything we need to travel an hour just to get to work.

My weekends are important to me because i work 12 - 17 hours a day and right now I enjoy coaching surf life savers and running my 4wding club on weekends. But the penalty rates means that if I need to pay fees or get anything above my normal work/life expenses, I can choose to work a few weekends to help cover the extra cost.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. For me the penalty rates are the difference between being able to afford my own home or not. The penalty rates make it so I'm not a corporate slave where the boss can say to me work 7 days a week every week because a weekend is no different to any other day. It is different, and its important. Not just for the extra money you can make but for the time off you need to get things done and enjoy life. We already work on avg far more than most countries. Where has the balance of work and life gone in Australia? Once you could live off one income, raise a family and enjoy a weekend with friends and the world still went round. Tell me why we have to work every day of the year and tell me why if I'm required to work on my weekend, why I shouldn't I be paid extra for the inconvenience to my life? If people want products and services they will pay for them. Why should companies do the same. They want employees to take all the risks, accept all the expenses both personal and financial so they can become rich and retire young, enjoying the fruits of our labour.

Submitted by

Gavin Gillett

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