

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 storeman, currently earning around 1000 per week.

I am a 46 year old male, i have a defacto partner 2 kids one of which has recently left home and the other is 15 years old and attending secondary school (public)

If penalty rates were abolished... my quality of life would be and the opportunities i could provide to my family would be compromised , the odd weekend away with my son a rare restaurant meal , maintaining the cars to a safe reliable level . Private health would have to go . My time over and above a 40 hr week is currently paid @ penalty rates ,i also believe if my fellow Australians were to loose this right many of the would be forced to seek a second job to make up the shortfall .

My weekends are important to me because...this is the precious time to be with family and friends and if you sacrifice this time you should be compensated as a result as . I have been forced to forgo sporting events , school functions or even being there when the kids go to bed due to work commitments , i was raised do the hard yards and you will be rewarded for the time sacrificed at the families expence .

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Australia is supposed to be the place for a fair go! not to forgo penalty rates for others to profit. just take a look around the world 2 sometimes 3 jobs are required to raise a family so they would have more opportunities than yourself . Our country will suffer overall if penalty rates are taken away , this is a mechanism that compensates you for the sacrifices that you make .What next a return to the good old days of a 44hr week with cheap overseas labour setting the tone for lower min wages (All sounds like Work Choices)to me ! I as a proud Australian would condemn any politician/employer that talks about this as i have personally withdrawn my labour (at a high cost) when this issue has been raised in workplace negotiations . I still have penalty rates and regardless of the bleeding of profits not being enough they have had many years of record profits.

Submitted by

Randall Bowley

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