

From: Timothy Belcourt
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To: penaltyratesfairpay
Subject: My opinion on fair rates of pay

Penalty Rates and
Fair Pay Select Committee
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Hi,

My wife works in aged care and she has to deal with some of the ugliness related to our humanity. The fact of wiping adult size bottoms and changing their nappies is quite enough. The stench of urine is throughout the facility. Most of the clients are out of their minds and you will be sworn at with the clients trying to kick and punch you in the process of trying to clean them up. My wife is one of the most kind and caring people I have ever met and because of this she is able to work at this type of job. She has sacrificed a social life on weekends and we are blessed to make it to church together as a family on a Sunday morning after she has worked the previous night. More often than not she is asleep during the sermon because she is exhausted. The extra income she gets from working weekends goes a long way to making ends meet, especially since the pay in the facility is only \$20/hour. I am on \$30/hour but I have to work 55 hours week to get paid for 37.5 of them. This is because the start up company I am with has to battle against Chinese imports of inferior quality that is made with no regards for the safety of people. I do not work weekends but both my wife and I battle to provide a loving home for our adolescent children.

People respond to incentives and taking away penalty rates for aged care workers creates a disincentive to looked after the aging population on a Sunday. WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU PEOPLE, YOU LAW MAKERS? If you want to remove penalty rates for a Sunday, then go after the jobs that CFMEU fat cat workers are at. For example road construction. I have seen the pay checks of these individuals and it is unjust that people should be making that kind of money sitting around in their trucks after 9pm drinking coffee(hiding behind the barricades) while traffic has to crawl by at 40kmh on the TULLA. It seems more time is spent setting up and taking down the witches hats and barricades than actual work getting down. Basically when it comes to travelling from the CBD to Craigieburn after 9pm, it is faster to drive up Sydney road then the TULLA.

If you want to address the injustice of why women get paid lower money than men, then start with occupations of which women are employed in. But do you not dare touch the Sunday penalty rates of aged care workers because what comes around, goes around. One day when you are too old and sick to look after yourself and your children cannot look after you at home and have to put you into an institution, you will have forgotten the terrible law you passed to pay aged care workers less money. Then in the little bit of conscience you have left, you will question the supposed injustice of the terrible care you will receive as a client in the aged care system on a Sunday at 3am while you lay in bed with a messy nappy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy Belcourt