

From: James Stuart
Sent: Monday, 24 July 2017 1:30 PM
To: penaltyratesfairpay
Subject: Penalty rate cuts submission

Penalty Rates and
Fair Pay Select Committee
Submission No. 31
Received 24/07/2017

Dear Sir/Madam

The proposed penalty rate cuts will directly harm some of Victoria's lowest paid and most vulnerable workers. I have been in customer service and retail for over thirty years and know the necessity of these penalties. Even with them, these and hospitality jobs barely provide a living wage, particularly given the obscene and unregulated cost of housing in this country. Cutting them on the premise that employers will hire more staff is laughable. Employers are trying to maximise profit, not take on more staff. They are far more likely to pocket the difference. This is one more instance of pandering to employers at the cost of those who have few protections, and ever-shrinking pay packets. You will be aware that wages have stagnated for decades, while the cost of living has not. Are we to follow the US model, where most of those on their so-called welfare are the working poor, whose minimum wage jobs do not provide anything like a living wage? Is taking more people's money away from them, and concentrating it in the hands of fewer and fewer people supposed to help an economy? Trickle-down economics has been seen to be not only a failure, but a lie, from the days of Reagan and Thatcher. We do not need to increase the wage gap and push more and more people into poverty in this state, let alone this country.

Yours faithfully
Louise Deutscher