

Penalty Rates MATTER

INFO SHEET



The Fair Work Commission has made the decision to drastically reduce Sunday penalty rates and on public holidays for workers in retail, hospitality and fast food industries.

This is a devastating outcome – these cuts will have a real and tangible impact on AWU members working in these industries. For example, a full-time retail worker working weekends will lose \$2,000 per year.

Importantly, this decision may also pave the way for employers to argue that Sunday penalty rates and public holiday rates should be cut in other industries.

Example of the cuts:

Hospitality Award Sunday Penalty Rates

175%



150%

Fast Food Award Sunday Penalty Rates

150%



125%

Retail Award Sunday Penalty Rates

200%



150%

“But they say
this will create
more jobs”

“My industry
isn't affected
by that
decision to cut
penalty rates”.

“We live in a
24/7 economy
and need to be
flexible”

There is absolutely no evidence that jobs will be created by these wage cuts. In fact, the former boss of the Reserve Bank Bernie Fraser has slammed the cuts stating that they will create greater inequality – not jobs.

This is the thin edge of the wedge. If they get away with cutting the wages of retail and hospitality workers through these penalty rate cuts, all other industries could be next. If we don't fight these cuts now, everyone's wages could be targeted next.

Why does the Govt only think that lower-paid workers need to sacrifice their weekends without getting compensated? Everyone has the right to enjoy their weekend – going to their kids' sport, social events, time with family. If you have to work and miss out on these things – you should be compensated.

Where to from here?

This cut comes at a time when the cost living and house prices are soaring, while wage growth is at a record low.

Workers need a pay rise, not a pay cut. We need to tell Malcolm Turnbull why penalty rates matter.

Join the AWU and our campaign to restore penalty rates for the retail, hospitality and fast food industries and to ensure that other industries don't face penalty rates cuts.

Contact your Local AWU Organiser to find out more or call 1800 AWU QLD