

30 March 2015

END EXCESSIVE PENALTY RATE CAMPAIGN MOBILIZES ACROSS NSW

Cafes, restaurants and retail outlets across the Mid North Coast region have joined an Easter campaign, led by the NSW Business Chamber to end excessive penalty rates.

"Cafes, restaurants and shops right across NSW have been given posters to put up in their shop windows – apologising to customers for being closed, or explaining that, while they are open, they are leaning on family members to help serve customers," NSW Business Chamber Mr Kellon Beard said.

"We know this Easter with its four back to back Public Holidays, will create enormous pressure on the owners of cafes, restaurants and shops across Mid North Coast, who want to remain open to serve their customers, but at the same time simply can't afford to open their doors due to the excessive penalty rates for their staff."

"The message on the posters is *"Tell Canberra something has to change"* – and unless our political leaders are prepared to do something about these excessive penalty rates, cafes, restaurants and shops will remain closed and workers will miss out on wages. We are asking people to register their concern via www.toobigtoignore.org.au.

"The NSW Business Chamber, through its submissions to the Fair Work Commission does not want to see penalty rates abolished.

"We believe that sensible penalty rates should be paid for certain weekend and Public Holiday times, however it's ridiculous that penalty rates are now so excessive that businesses are forced to close to avoid making losses.

"Many of our regional and tourist towns across the Mid North Coast will be like ghost towns this weekend because business owners have come to the realisation that they'll lose money if they open. This has a devastating impact on local towns and communities, as visitors will have no capacity to spend money in these towns, and local workers miss out on income.

"The excessive cost of employing staff remains the number one issue for business owners across NSW, and this has a direct correlation to the unacceptably high levels of youth unemployment in many parts of our State," Mr Beard said.

Kellon Beard

Regional Manager, Mid North Coast, NSW Business Chamber



Add your voice to toobigtoignore.org.au
For more information call 13 26 96

Are you a business forced to close
on weekends or operate understaffed
because penalty rates are too high?

TOO BIG
TO IGNORE

TELL CANBERRA
SOMETHING HAS
TO CHANGE

