

# Save our weekend.

## Tips for speaking to local businesses about supporting penalty rates

The recent decision on penalty rates exposes thousands of hospitality, retail and pharmacy workers to attempts by unscrupulous bosses to slash their weekend rates.

Many businesses are currently considering whether they will try to cut their workers' wages. We need to convince them not to cut wages.

Conversations from customers and community members are a powerful way of letting employers know that the community does not support cuts to the wages of some of the lowest paid workers in the country.

### Conversation tips

You should request to speak to, or leave a message for, the owner or manager of the business.

In your conversation, **tell them why you support weekend rates and why you're interested in their position** (eg. you only want to support businesses that support their staff).

It's good to **tell them a bit about yourself**. Do you live nearby? Do you work weekends? Have you ever relied on weekend rates? Do any of your friends or family members rely on them to make ends meet?

You can tell them that a number of businesses have come out and committed not to cutting penalty rates and they have been widely celebrated.

You can also tell them that the vast majority of Australians (around 80%) support weekend rates.

If they need some time to consider their position, offer to follow up with them in a week's time. You could leave a copy of the business pledge with them – or send them a copy via email – in the meantime.

It's important to remain polite and courteous.

### Let us know how you go!

If the business is supportive and signs the pledge, ask for a picture while you're there and ask them if we can share this news on the Save Our Weekend website and Facebook pages. We will also send them a sticker to display in their business.

Let us know the outcome of your conversations by emailing [team@saveourweekend.org.au](mailto:team@saveourweekend.org.au) or sending us a message on Facebook.

And if you love social media as much as we do, you can share and tag us on any of the below using the #SaveOurWeekend hashtag.

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