

# Media Release

---



## **No cuts to penalty rates for hospitality workers at Curtin University's Guild outlets**

**30 June 2017**

Employees working at Curtin University Student Guild outlets will not see their wages cut when changes to penalty rates come into effect this weekend.

Liam O'Neill, President of the Curtin Student Guild which represents almost 60,000 university students, said the Guild would not be applying reduced penalty rates to hospitality and retail staff who worked on Sundays and public holidays.

"The Guild operates some facilities for students at weekends and we are open for business on a number of public holidays," he said.

In February, the Fair Work Commission announced that Sunday and public holiday penalty rates would be reduced for hospitality and retail workers.

"We believe in supporting our staff – many of whom are students – because any cut in their take home wage could result in financial stress.

Mr O'Neill said that students were over-represented in the retail and hospitality industries.

"We understand that students who experience stress as a result of their personal finances are three times more likely to drop out than their peers who do not."

Curtin University student Carrie Millar, 21, has worked weekends at the Bookmark Café for four years while completing a public relations and marketing degree.

"Penalty rates helped me get through my studies. I would have had to work during the week otherwise and that would have impacted my university workload.

"Working weekends means I do not see my family and friends so I think it is fair that we are compensated for that."

Ms Millar said the Guild was doing the right thing by staff and the decision would have a positive impact on employee morale.

Curtin Student Guild employs more than 150 people across seven cafes, a tavern, and a retail outlet at Curtin University.

Ends

### **Media Contact**

Liam O'Neill  
Guild President  
0402 411 315