

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

Submission to the Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business-Penalty Rates Exemption) Bill 2012

I am a casual employee, working as a Midwife, currently earning around \$ 38 - 46 per hour.

I have two children, both currently studying. I have a mortgage. I have been working for many years to achieve the lifestyle I enjoy.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would see this as a criminal offence. The health profession, ambulance, fire brigade and police are essential services. if you take away the penalties for working afternoons, nights and weekends you are destroying the livelihood of the people who help all Australians. Retail does not need to operate everyday. essential services DO!!

My weekends are important to me because...it is a time for relaxation and family

connecting. Most special occasions are planned on weekends so that most people can attend. I have missed several events due to work commitments.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. If you value the work of essential services you must not take away penalty rates. I know of many ageing Nurses and Midwives and Ambulance officers that will just resign if penalty rates are removed. We do the job to help the public but also feel that we should be paid appropriately for our expertise.

Submitted by

Gloria Albert

Saturday 29th of September 2012