

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 permanent employee, working as a registered nurse, currently earning around 28 per hour.

I live with my husband and two sons and we are about to embark on a mortgage.

If penalty rates were abolished... I don't know how we would manage. My husband has his own small business but has been struggling financially for some years.

My weekends are important to me because... we like to spend time together as a family. Occasionally when I have a weekend off it's wonderful to feel 'normal'. Of course, I have missed out on many social events due to having to work.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Weekends are so important, I feel I

sacrifice a lot in my personal life - family and friends also - by being at work on weekends.

Submitted by

Valerie Patterson

Saturday 29th of September 2012