

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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 45.00 per hour.

I like so many others have a mortogage and adult children. I have worked shift work and weekends all my married life. This has given me the oportubnity to study to become more qualified and give excellent nursing care. Working shift work has also allowed me to be home with my children and not rely on others to raise my children.

If penalty rates were abolished many mothers would have to work full time and finding care with a rotating roster would be impossible. Shift work has a negative impact on the body and on the family,. Additionally many functions would be missed out on. A smallll financial remuneration for working the weekends is the only compensation given to the people that work in essential services. Many staff would forgo weekend work

and thus there would be a severe shortage.

My weekends are important to me as it is now a time to spend with family and friends, to relax and unwind. Over the years I have missed out on many important events such as birthday parties, baptisms, engagements parties and Christmas functions.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.

Submitted by

Colleen Thomas

Wednesday 26th of September 2012