

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 casual employee, working as a Registered Nurse, currently earning around 27 per hour.

I am 25 years old. I work as a Registered Nurse. I live with my boyfriend and we are renting.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would lose a significant amount of money as I do from time to time work on weekends. Working on weekends earns very good money and for people who work in lesser paid jobs, many relish the weekend to even get on par with the average weekly wage.

My weekends are important to me because...it is time used to relax, catch up with family and friends. When i have to work, I often miss out on these activities but

knowing I am being compensated for it makes it a little more bearable. If weekend penalty rates were taken away many businesses will not be able to function on weekends as employees won't want to work. This will not only impact on the economy and jobs it will impact on the weekend as we know it. Going out for lunch, to theme parks, the movies won't happen because they won't be open.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. If this idea is being used to try and cut expenditure it is a very poor move. The economy isn't great as it is, you take away penalty rates, you take away employees, you take away business and therefore consumers cannot buy and visit in relation to weekend activities. Everything will come to a halt.

Submitted by

Jacqueline Price

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