

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 nurse, currently earning around \$ 26 per hour.

I work as a nursing assistant full-time at a rehab hospital. I am also studying full-time at uni to become a Registered Nurse. I am also looking after my wife who lost her job during the Global Financial Crisis and our two-year-old son.

If weekend penalty rates were abolished, I would not earn enough to pay my bills, my rent, my electricity and petrol.

My weekends are important to me because I need the penalty rates to make ends meet. I need to work full-time just to be able to stay ahead of my bills. If I were to lose my weekend rates, I'd be forced to ask money from the government to cover all my

costs.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I'm barely earning enough money as a nurse to keep up with all my increasing expenses. My meagre earnings as a nurse will go down even more if I lost my weekend penalty rates. I'd be forced to quit my profession and working in the NSW healthcare system if weekend penalty rates were abolished. I imagine all of my coleauges would do the same.

Submitted by

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Monday 24th of September 2012