

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 have a mortgage.

I would be unable to afford my mortgage if penalty rates were abolished. My income would be reduced by more than \$500 per fortnight without weekend and afternoon penalties.

I am a shiftworker which means I am required to work weekends, my partner is not. I often go days without seeing him and we live in the same house- simply because I am at work when he is not. I often miss out on important events such as Christmas and Easter because I have to be at work.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Nurses are in short supply as it is, by removing penalty rates it will be almost impossible to retain nurses in the workforce. No one would work the weekends or afternoon shifts without being paid the penalty.

Submitted by

Jessica Gray

Tuesday 25th of September 2012