

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 RN, currently earning around 32 per hour.

I work weekends in aged care and most of my income goes towards my daughters education.

If penalty rates were abolished.. I would be required to work longer hours and spend less time looking after my family. Working weekends allows me to be at home during the week in school holidays. I would move into a management position and discontinue working weekends.

My weekends are important to me because..its family time, however as stated above it has allowed me to be at home during the week in school holidays, and my husband is off at the weekends.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.especially in Aged care where professional registered nurses are paid approx \$6 per hour less than hospital staff. The registered nurse in aged care takes on a huge responsibility especially after hours when there is no back up on site.

Submitted by

Linda Patterson

Thursday 27th of September 2012