

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 reg. nurse, currently earning around 37 per hour.

I am 62 years old and have been nursing for 44 years always doing weekends and nightshifts. I am single and have managed to pay off my mortgage.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would think that a lot of nurses would find the hard work and giving up a lot of the normal social life doing evening weekend and nightshifts not worth staying in the profession for \$37 an hour. PENALTY rates make the income reasonable. In america when the penalty rates went the hourly in come went up to \$65 per hour which would make a big difference. For 44 years I have missed social and family events and broken up relations because of shiftwork.

My weekends are important to me because...most social events happen in the weekend one misses out on these but the penalties make up for that.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. The hospitals will empty out of staff who would do shiftwork without being payed for it. Some of these people should shiftwork a go so they can judge for themselves how much it effects ones life!

Submitted by

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