

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 40 per hour.

I am nearing retirement but know when I was raising my 5 children if there was no penalty rates that I would not have been working. So for 20 years the health department had a Registered Nurse who was prepared to work W/E and Night Shift. This filled a big need in our health service.

If penalty rates were abolished... I'm sure that people would not work those hours and we would lose a large percentage of the workforce. We would have backpackers working in hospitality and we all know that they don't stay for long so the businesses would have to spend long hours training new people all the time. I for one would not have gone back to work and work unfavourable hours if there were no penalty rates.

Night shift is known for shorten lives (see current research)- why would anyone put themselves through that.

My weekends are important to me because... in the past my 5 children attended sport on every weekend winter and summer. I want my children to have the same opportunity that my husband and I had when we could coach/manager our childrens sporting teams and watch their matches.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. We believe in a fair go for all of our citizens and that should include reimbursing those workers who chose to work weekends. Frankly if the restaurants have to increase their fees on weekends so be it.

Submitted by

Sue Brown

Friday 14th of September 2012