

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 38.00 per hour.

I am 64 yrs old female, working in operating rooms, doing shift work and "on call". I have a mortgage and live alone. I am contracted for 24 hours/week and work as many extra hours as I can, if possible on weekends for the penalties.

If penalty rates were abolished I would have to work many more years to be able to afford to retire and be self sufficient with my super money as I simply cannot exist in my own home on a pension. I'm certainly not as fit as I should be to be working in these conditions but need the extra money.

My weekends are important to me to have off and relax like most people because I

have a wide circle of friends of whom none now work but we share the same artistic interests. A lot of our meetings and workshops are held over weekends but I always take the option to work if I can to accrue the penalties. My future needs are of the utmost importance to me now and I will continue to work towards them while I am able.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I have a sister who is also a nurse working in a very heavy medical ward. She has suffered many work related injuries over her career and seriously needs to reduce her hours but simply can't make ends meet on any less hours. She also tries to take advantage of the penalties even though she and I would really like to have weekends off together but we both are chasing the dollar to our detriment, at our ages. She is on \$26 p/hour.

Submitted by

Lesley Miller

Saturday 29th of September 2012