

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 Ambulance Paramedic, currently earning around 30 per hour.

I am a 44 year old male and have been in the NSW Ambulance Service for 23 years. I have a mortgage and am married with two Sons.

If penalty rates were abolished... my rate of pay would be dramatically reduced. As a Paramedic I work a constant rotating shift that includes nightshifts and regular weekend work. I work shifts that are a minimum of 12 hrs and often up being 14-15 hrs in duration. If these planned changes occur my commitment to this career would change. Many Paramedics stay in this profession due to the extra incentives created by penalty rates. If Saturday or Sunday night is worth the same as a midweek dayshift then good luck getting Officers to work it. I hope the Politicians don't need an

Ambulance on the weekend!!

My weekends are important to me because... most of my friends and family do not work in my field so do not have the same commitment as me. As my children were growing I missed so many different stages of their growing. Weekends gone and passed of the sporting clubs they were involved in. Christmas times at work that I cannot get back, Special weekend family get-togethers and occasions. If incentives are not paid to these workers then good luck getting people to work.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Penalty rates are an integral part of my workplace as a Ambulance Paramedic and for many workers help to compensate for the time spent away from family and friends whilst at work ,at a time when the majority of the workforce are with their loved ones. Being a Politician and making these decisions should not always be part money. Think of family.

Submitted by

Dallas Thompson

Monday 24th of September 2012