

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 \$39 per hour.

I am married with three teenage daughters, my husband also works fulltime. I do not choose to work weekends by choice and when I do I miss out on the only Family time there is.

If penalty rates were abolished I presume all employees could choose not to work - why else would you work? I simply would never choose to work weekends.

My weekends are important to me because as my daughters are involved in sport and music, and as a shift worker I regularly miss out on watching them play, I regularly miss out on Family and Friends get togethers. There are so many important events

over the last eighteen years that I have missed out on and the only recompense has been penalty rates which have not been extravagant.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. How on earth can anyone be expected to give up their weekends and evenings without being paid for it, it is simply archaic and third worldly. Australians already work longer hours than any other first world country and are feeling the brunt of it within our adolescent and family groups. We know the importance of Family and social time - why cause more pain and social unrest?

Submitted by

Fiona Deegan

Friday 14th of September 2012