

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 endorsed enrolled nurse, currently earning around 24.65 per hour.

I alone, raised my now, adult kids, (who still live at home) on a single income. I needed a job with flexible hours to be able to care for my family. I have a car loan & mortgage.

I supported myself & family while I studied by working weekends & NOT claiming austudy. I am 60years old and supported my son while he studied, by doing extra weekend and evening shifts. I've had health issues and find I can continue to work by doing just 4 days pw provided I can work some weekends and evenings to boost my income with penalty rates.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would have had to stay on the single pension for

longer. I would not have been able to afford to study for my Nursing Diploma. I earned more on weekends (\$1000 pf) than I could get from Austudy (about \$600 pf) a definite incentive!

My son would still be on Newstart if I hadn't had those penalty rates to stretch the income to keep him at TAFE! I get \$42 ph on a Sunday compared to \$24.65 ph on a weekday.

My weekends are important to me because...I am the mainstay in my family. My grandkids who have no father or grandfather, need me. I often work Christmas day and public hol's. Weekends are happy and good for mental health. Weekdays are lonely and lifeless and no good if you're depressed. I often miss social oppurtunities with my friends.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Frankly, if I don't have weekend time off, I will become more depressed and less productive. Without penalty rates, I'm more likely to retire sooner-a burden on the economy. My mental health and family life are more important. I'll change jobs if I'm forced to work weekends.

Submitted by

Vicki Duff

Saturday 6th of October 2012