

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 midwife, currently earning around 31 per hour.

I am a midwife, and I have a family with 2 little boys. My partner is a tradie that works 6 days a week. With little family support, I work part time and weekends occasionally. We only just pay the bills. I am glad of the flexible hours and the penalties are helpful but the extra money and its fair to the other staff, is the only reason I would work weekends and nights.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would not want to work weekends or nights at all. My husband is only available Sundays and I don't wish to be rostered on at this time. Night duty is very taxing for a "hands on mum" Everyone hates nights, but you have to do them!

My weekends are important to me because...my kids play sports and I love to watch them, family get togethers are always on weekends. I have attended maybe 2 new years parties since I was 18 and have missed many a Christmas day! Much to my protests!!!

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Somebody has to work during these anti social hours. I would not work weekends unless i was made to. I also recall being a student, needing the weekends and late shifts to support my studies. The industry already takes advantage of this.

Submitted by

Katy Hunt

Thursday 27th of September 2012