

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 registered nurse, currently earning around 25.00 per hour.

I am a 37 year old with a 2 year old and another on the way. My partner is a casual teacher and we rent our home with a view (in the long term) to buying something. I am currently completing a postgraduate degree in nursing (mental health)

If penalty rates were abolished I would stop working as a nurse. I love my job as a mental health nurse however it is the penalty rates that allow me to work in this area. If I didn't earn penalty rates I would earn at least 12000 less per annum.

My weekends are important to me because I get to spend time with my family, my loved ones - I travel back to regularly and see my extended family

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. What people get paid is a reflection of what society perceives of them. We should reflect that appreciation for all shift workers that whilst some are out enjoying their R&R/sleeping/seeking assistance from emergency services others are working and catering to that. Working evenings and nights disrupts peoples' lives and we should also show the value of that through keeping penalty rates.

Submitted by

Solange Villagran

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