

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 Disability Support Worker, currently earning around \$28 per hour.

I have 2 children, one at University and one still at school. We are trying to support them while trying to pay off our mortgage and financially prepare for our retirement.

If penalty rates were abolished I would be very reluctant to work weekends as the only advantage for me is the increased hourly rate...all my colleagues feel the same and it will be very difficult to find staff to run a 24 hour service for the disabled.

My weekends are important to me because the rest of my family are not working or attending study. There have been numerous times where I have missed out on attending events due to working on the weekend.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates otherwise the already understaffed disability field will be severely affected. There are no choices in this area as far as opening hours and people need to be compensated for being willing to work at unsociable times.

Submitted by

Jill Loane

Thursday 20th of September 2012