

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 nurse, currently earning around \$40 per hour.

I have a family with three school-age children. I am the sole provider for the family. We have a mortgage on our home.

If penalty rates were abolished my fear is that I would be required to work weekends and/or after hours. Also, my income would drop significantly.

My weekends are important to me because it is the time I spend with my family. We can organise to spend the whole day together, where as during the week they have school and I am coming home late from work.

I urge the committee to keep all penalty rates.

While we may live in a 24/7 world, as stated by some business representatives, our families do not. We implore government to use the same argument for 'family values' that quashed the gay marriage legislation to prevent these changes coming in to force.

It feels like there are decisions being made everywhere that impact on our families, but none of them are for our benefit.

All our protections are being eroded and no one cares.

Everyday, the cost of living is going up, but our pay increases are frozen. Grocery prices increase at an alarming rate, fuel prices fluctuate daily and energy prices are soaring, and all the government is doing is looking in to more ways of taking money out of my pocket and away from my family.

Why not consider a moderate increase to the GST? This would share the burden of these levies, while also ensuring that the people that can pay extra are the ones that do!

Submitted by  
norbert pereira

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