

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 pharmacy assistant, currently earning around \$20 per hour.

I have young children, 6yrs, 8yrs & 13yrs old. Weekend time is a very important time for us. Fitting in sport commitments and social activities for the well being of our family. I also have a mortgage to pay.

If penalty rates were abolished I don't think it would be worth working on the weekend. If I'm going to give up my family's precious time together, I want to be rewarded accordingly, so I can enrich my family in other ways.

My weekends are important to me because it is the only time when we can spend quality time together as a family. Catching up with friends and other family members is

important for our mental and emotional well being.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. If the weekend becomes like a weekday, I believe mental illness will only increase, as people will become even more socially isolated, and financial hardship will increase. I believe people only work weekends because of the financial reward. Why else would you give up, the reason why you work - so you can have a life!!!

Submitted by

Lisa Rush

Friday 14th of September 2012