

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 RN, currently earning around 28 per hour.

I live with my partner, who is a full-time student at university. We both work weekends in order to boost our income and make enough to live .

If penalty rates were abolished... I would find it difficult to survive , as rent is high and as are all living expenses in general.

My weekends are important to me because...I am able to make a living by working afternoons, I am able to spend the mornings with my family.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Not only are penalty rates helping my partner and myself pay our high rent living . I know that taking away penalty

rates will affect all my colleagues who make significantly less than many others in other sectors. Working as a nurse is a 24/7 job, that requires working a rotating roster, with varying hours, that is currently supplemented by penalty rates. Without penalty rates, many nurses will leave the profession and choose an easier 9-5 job. I know this is something that I will strongly consider if this change occurs.

Submitted by

Brigita Feltham

Tuesday 25th of September 2012