

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 employee, working as a nurse, currently earning around \$40 per hour.

I am a nurse with over 25 years of specilaty experience and this is the highest rate of pay for me. I have a mortgage, look after my elderly parents and have a wife who works full time Monday to Friday and 2 young children.

If penalty rates were abolished. my wage would be significantly affected. As a nurse I don't get to choose to work evenings, weekends or even over time. Nursing is about being a team player and at the end of the day - making sure patients get the care they need. As a senior member of staff I am needed to support less experienced staff, to make sure care is coordinated, to teach and to intervene to ensure patient deterioration is recognised and managed...before its too late.

My weekends are important to me because this is often the only time I get to spend with my wife, children and parents. I strongly believe the family is the basis of our society and there are many times I have to be at work and put patient care and my job ahead of them. To be asked to do this without any compensation (penalty rates) is atrocious. The weekend is still the time to be together; the time to be with family and friends; the time to go to Church together. Let's face it: dinner parties for the family don't work on a Tuesday afternoon and homework, chores all need to be done before bedtime: socialising and family need the weekend. Its only fair that if you have to work then, you should get paid extra.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. For over 20 years I have heard our representatives in parliament say its a 24/7 week, this is NOT the case, not then and not now. Our society still needs the weekend and if you work it you lose out. I enjoy my brunch on a Sunday, dinner out with friends,taking a ferry to Manly - and anyone working to help me enjoy this should receive penalties. If I'm working in Neurosurgical ICU on the weekend, you or your loved one will be in safe, experienced and caring hands, and that IS worth paying for.

Submitted by

Mark Winn

Tuesday 25th of September 2012