

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 registered nurse, currently earning around \$35 per hour.

I have a family, elderly parents, and friends with whom it is important to stay in contact

If penalty rates were abolished...there would be very little incentive to work these unsociable hours. We are not a 24/7 society as has been previously suggested by politicians. If this were to happen to nurses, police, ambulance officers the rates of staff shortage would increase. Australia is a country that is well-renowned for in the tourist sector as having restaurants that patrons are not required to leave tips. Without penalty rates, restaurant, cafe and bar owners would also have difficulty obtaining staff.

My weekends are important to me because I have family members that require care and attention. I also coach a local hockey team. There have been many times when I have had to cancel family parties and personal activities because I am required to be on duty.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. This would be yet another travesty imposed upon the workers of Australia without consultation.

Submitted by

Bronwyne BEVAN

Tuesday 25th of September 2012