

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 nurse, currently earning around 37 per hour.

I am studying, working and have a mortgage

If penalty rates were abolished... you will be taking away the importance of not working weekends! Who wants to work a weekend? They should be spent at home with friends and family-connecting. If you have to work you should be rewarded for it.

No one would work in our hospital if there were no weekend penalties! We already have enough trouble attracting people to nursing. The conditions are bad, the pay compared to other degrees of the same time is appalling and now you are considering removing weekend penalties- the only way anyone can earn decent money. The time when most disasters happen and we need our most experienced people on.

My weekends are important to me because...

I spend time with family and friends and get out doors with the out door group I belong to ( they don't go out during the week as that is when the majority of people work)

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I can not believe you would consider removing them. I understand small business is struggling, but this is not the answer! This will create a mountain out of a mole hill!

Submitted by

Jenny Hughes

Tuesday 25th of September 2012