

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 nurse, currently earning around 35.00 per hour.

I have a family and am lucky enough to be mortgage free. If I had a mortgage I would not have been able to leave weekend work.

If penalty rates were abolished there would be no incentive to work in a hospital setting. I have recently moved to a community setting where I do not have to work shiftwork and weekends. I did this at a financial loss but did it because of the stress shiftwork places on an individual and their family. People who work weekends sacrifice a huge portion of their family and social time and deserved to be compensated accordingly.

My weekends are important to me because I have family commitments. Church, my son's basketball, waterskiing and extended family events. Working on weekends alienates people from this community contact. I have missed numerous birthday parties, christenings and childrens sporting achievements when I was working weekends...

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Unfortunately society now demands services in many industries 7 days a week. However weekends have remained the time for social events , sporting events and major family events such as weddings, christenings or just get togethers. People working weekends do so at a cost to their quality of life, their connectedness to family and friends and ultimately their mental & social well being. Let it be for a reason, even if that is purely fiscal.

Submitted by

Colleen Evans

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