

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 Midwife, currently earning around \$39.90 per hour.

I am married with one child at home and semi-supporting another child at university. I have a mortgage and we have a business that my husband runs.

If penalty rates were abolished I would find it very difficult to pay our mortgage on a basic rate. I work full-time night duty which includes weekends and if these penalty rates were abolished my wage would be reduced by up to \$700 per fortnight.

My weekends are important to me because it is family time. I choose to work part of the weekends and night duty during the week so that I can earn extra money, but it comes as a sacrifice to family life. If there were no penalty rates I would not work

weekends. I regularly miss out on events because of the hours that I work, but I do get compensated for this at the moment.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates as it will affect so many industries, not only health. People are prepared to give up weekends, nights and family time for a monetary agreement which is only fair. Most people would not want to work these shifts if there were no penalty rates.

Submitted by

Jenni Sullivan

Wednesday 26th of September 2012