

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 \$28.00 per hour.

At the age of 57 I completed University and finally joined a profession that I am truly proud to be a part of.

At this point in time I retain my penalty rates however it won't take long for you to take them away. As a nurse I work shiftwork these are long hard hours. Whilst penalty rates remain, those hard hours are a little more bearable and my mortgage is reducing. If penalty hours are abolished I will have to work more hours to make up for them and at the expense of my patients whose safety will suffer with a tired nurse in charge.

My weekends are important to me because I get to spend quality time with my

grandchildren who are at school whilst I am on shift. I work pretty much every second weekend this helps my work mates who have children to spend the time with them.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates to retain workforce numbers and skilled labour. Should you or one of your family take ill and need hospitalisation would you like a tired overworked nurse attending to your family member due to having to work more shifts to make up for lost penalty rates.

Submitted by

Annette Gilbert

Wednesday 26th of September 2012