

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 RN, currently earning around 600 per week.

I am a mother of 4 who has worked on & off as a midwife/RN for 21yrs. Although I have a passion for looking after people in the public health system, my family must come first. There is a big shortage of experienced nurses currently in the public hospitals and most will leave if we have to work for day rates and still do shiftwork. I work so hard and do extra hours to help but there is no way I will stuff up my health any more, (from rotating shifts, especially nights), if I am not getting paid a little extra. Why should I be away from my family on weekends, afternoons & nights? Would you? We are so over worked and this will push our health system over the edge. We will all leave and do other jobs, and yes you can replace us with 4 other cheaper nurses and see how many problems you create. Hope you can sleep at night. I wouldn't send my dog in to a public hospital at present if I could help it and this will only make nursing care so

much more inferior. I love my job but we already get paid badly, I think, 4 the responsibility we have. I normally vote liberal by the way and am quite a conservative but will not coo this!!!

If penalty rates were abolished...I will leave the public health system

My weekends are important to me because...I volunteer as a netball coach and attend church. I also help with volunteer kids clubs, young mums crÄ"che. I do alot of community voluntary work.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. The public system is so under pressure, many good mature nurses will leave.

Submitted by

Maree Purvis

Saturday 29th of September 2012