

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 psychologist, currently earning around per hour.

As a student, I worked in the retail sector.

If penalty rates were abolished... Penalty rates are necessary to compensate people for the lost family time - many businesses may no longer be mon-fri, but schools are, so family life is.

My weekends are important to me because...before an injury left me in chronic pain, I was a volunteer girl guide leader. Australian society relies heavily on volunteerism - the RFS, SES, Service clubs, sports clubs. Most volunteers are not retired, we juggle work, family and give our free time to our community.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Its easy for those of us who are able to work when we please to forget how much we rely on other people to do the jobs we don't want to do, at the times we would rather be with our friends and families.

Submitted by

Kathy Nash

Monday 24th of September 2012