

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 AIN, currently earning around \$22.13 per hour.

I am married with 5 children all having left home. My wife and myself both work in aged care. We are among the lowest paid in Australia relying on penalty rates to subsidise our income.

If penalty rates were abolished... then working in aged care or any other low paid industry would not be worthwhile and is this NOT the reason we have such a shortage of nurses in our industry. I could expect to loose around \$400.00 a fortnight if penalty rates were abolished.

My weekends are important to me because...I have played sport all my life. I have

referreed, coached, supported my children in all their sports and been on the committee of several sporting clubs.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. People give up a lot to work weekends and shift work to try and make the low pay more worthwhile. How could you possibly operate Nursing Homes, Hospitals and Restaurants, Cafe bars, Hospitality etc. without these dedicated people.

Submitted by

Brian Bruce

Tuesday 25th of September 2012