

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 RN, currently earning around 28 per hour.

Rent one bedroom apartment. Partner lives interstate. Family live 3 hours drive away. Without weekends I would be unable to spend time with my family or partner.

If penalty rates were abolished... I could not afford to pay rent. With my car loan, personal loan repayment and the high cost of living in canberra I can not afford to live on nurses base salary. I rely on penalty rates from weekend and evening shifts to be able to make ends meet.

My weekends are important to me because... FAMILY! FRIENDS! I would not work weekends if I did not recieve extra incentives to do so.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Walk a month in our shoes and with our wages. Lets see how you can survive without penalty rates.

Submitted by

Melanie Dickmann

Tuesday 2nd of October 2012