

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 31aud per hour.

I am a single mother with two daughters aged 9 and 6. Both of my daughters attend a public school Monday to Friday. hence, the reason i chose to work weekends. This is so i can support my daughters education and be a hands on parent. I only ask friends to walk my daughters to school or look after them while i go to work to save money as i don't send them to child care. I am paying off my car and renting a two bedroom unit because i cannot afford a mortgage.

If penalty rates were abolished... not only do i sacrifice the weekends which i should be spending with my children, but also sacrifice the quality of life we are just able to enjoy. I would be forced to take on more shifts and leave my children to other people to care

for which i have tried very hard to avoid. My morning and afternoon shifts are my permanent roster from Fri to Sun. The penalty rates help as my weekend shifts pay near the amount if i worked full time. If i lose my penalty rates i would be 500aud worse off.

My weekends are important to me because...I am a single parent who looks after two daughters with minimal assistance from friends without sending my children to child care. Tjis is to save money. I. support their education and firmly believe that this is the best possible work-family balance that works for me and my young children. My children and i miss out on most family gatherings, sunny days in the park because "mum"has to work the weekends. That is why we miss out on holidays, long weekends and festivals because "mum" has to work weekends. "Mum" would only be able to take us out during school holidays during her days off because "mum" has to go back to work on weekends.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. People who chose to work weekends are parents, students, grandparents and who are barely earning a decent living sacrifice their weekeds to provide service to keep shops, businesses, hospitals, nursing homes precincts, operating while leaving behind their loved ones.

Submitted by

CHeryl Pascual

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