

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 registered nurse, currently earning around 28 per hour.

As an older citizen I am trying to add to my super to be able to maintain a reasonable lifestyle once I retire. I also have a mortgage which I am in the process of paying of as fast as I can.

If penalty rates were abolished I would stop working weekends as it is the only thing that makes the isolation from family bearable. This would result in increased burden on my peers.

My weekends are important to me because I can see my adult children and enjoy time with grandchildren. It also allows me to catch up with friends who work from Mon to Fri.

Weekend penalty rates means the difference between living on the poverty line and a reasonable income (nurses are not allowed to take tips). It means I am able to save for a better future than living on the pension which if anyone has ever been to Centrelink is demeaning and inhuman and NOBODY should have to go through that.

Submitted by

Felicity Rostron

Wednesday 26th of September 2012