

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 nurse, currently earning around 600 per week.

I am married and a mum of 2 teenage kids.

If penalty rates were abolished... it would dessimate the health system. It is hard enough to retain good well trained nurses in our hospitals now. Many leave to find other jobs in the corporate world where they can work monday to friday and spend weekends with their family and friends. The only attraction to shift work is the extra pay. As a shift worker it is hard missing out on the many social or family events that occur on weekends. Why shouldn't we be compensated for missing out? Hopsitals will find it extremely difficult to staff the wards, Theatres etc on weekends if penalty rates are abolished. I bet Senator Xenophon doesn't miss out on his family occasions

because he is working and if he does he should understand.

My weekends are important to me because...I like to socialise with friends and family and most events are on the weekend. It is also when my kids are home, so I can spend time with them. I have often missed out on special events due to working. you have to accept that when working in an acute hospital as people get sick and injured 24/7 but it is less of a disappointment if you know you are getting paid a bit more for your trouble.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. i feel this is important or we will see an even greater shortage of nurses and a decline in our health care.

Submitted by

Dianne Dryden

Tuesday 25th of September 2012