

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 \$ 21.00 per hour.

Both my husband and I are shift worker, with two semi dependent sons - a uni student and an apprentice. We live in the country and have to travel distances for work. We still have a small mortgage and are working on that so one day we can afford to retire.

If penalty rates were abolished... we would not be able to support our children or have our mortgage paid off when we reach retirement age.

My weekends are important to me because... it is the time when we can catch up with our children, family and friends. My husband and I have missed many personal time with children and family, unable to accept invitations due to working weekends - but it

is a sacrifice we make to get ahead.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. So that our sacrifices to our interpersonal wellbeing with family and friends is for a reason.

The reason being to get ahead, support our children and retire when we have to with some money still in our pocket to live off.

To not pay weekend penalties I feel would bring alot of Australian workers, who are just keeping their heads above water, down into poverty levels. Do you want to drown us?

Submitted by

Kerrie Hay-Smith

Tuesday 25th of September 2012