

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 ECA, currently earning around \$18.40 per hour.

I am one in a family of 5. We already struggle to make ends meet, As my husband works as well we require two cars. As a carer I am one of the lowest paid workers, you can earn more money working at McDonalds than my hourly rate.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would lose \$73.61 from working Saturdays and \$147.22 for working Sundays, This would not only effect me but all the carers in the state. It is hard enough to get carers now because of the pay but if you were to take away our Penalty rates it will be harder still to find carers and I would be better off not working at all.

My weekends are important to me because...I am only a part time worker, working nights so I can find more time to spend with my kids.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.. it is hard enough to find people to work night shift with out loosing these rates. With out these rates I would be far better off on the dole than working. I would not be able to afford to run a second car, pay insurances, power bills, or the phone, making finding another job harder still. I think you should rethink this as far more people will be effected than what you think. Give us a break, our wages are already the lowest, Please don't make them any lower, it will cost far more in the long run and some one has to look after the elderly. We just simply cant afford to lose any more from our pay.

Submitted by

Susan de Bomford

Wednesday 19th of September 2012