

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 casual employee, working as a Nurse, currently earning around \$38.40 per hour.

I have 2 adult children and three young grandchildren. My husband and I both retired but I have returned to the nursing workforce on a casual basis. We do not have a mortgage on our home and are self funded retirees

If penalty rates were abolished... I work mainly night shift, either during the week or weekends and feel anyone who works those times which are out of the mainstream working hours should be adequately compensated in the form of penalty rates.

My weekends are important to me because...During my years of nursing I have missed many events which were important to my family - particularly Christmas Day a number

of times and other significant holidays which many people (including the political leaders in this state) take for granted as time they will be spending with their families not taking care of someone else's loved ones

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I would seriously reconsider my commitment to healthcare in this state. I also have grave concerns for the future of nursing if this bill is introduced. Given the fact that my son in law is also a Registered Nurse and my daughter is just completing her BN, I feel very strongly about legislation that has been either suggested or introduced by the conservative governments in this country in the last few years - beginning with the Work Choices legislation - and the constant attacks on the hard won rights of workers. I feel strongly that this proposed legislation is also another very good indicator of the lack of moral integrity of this government which is attacking the rights of workers who do not have the protection of a strong union body and are often young people are working in lowly paid jobs to support themselves whilst they study to improve their future prospects for employment

Submitted by

Christine Carson

Tuesday 25th of September 2012