

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 Nurse, currently earning around 25 per hour.

I am starting a family and often sacrifice my weekends to make ends meet. Even missing one weekend in a fortnightly pay period makes a huge difference.

I am studying at uni to receive my masters degree and I have a mortgage as well. Receiving penalties for weekend work allows me to study and pay the bills

If penalty rates were abolished... I would lose money and would leave nursing without a doubt as my family and I could not survive on me receiving a flat wage without penalties- especially when the cost of living keeps getting higher and higher. I doubt I'm the only one who would leave this field if penalties were abolished. In an area with a chronic skill shortage and more nurses needed, can the government really afford to

take the penalties off nurses?

My weekends are important to me because...I get very few weekends off work so I tend to cherish them and use them wisely to catch up with mates or spend time with family

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. It's simple- nurses do a very hard job for pay which is not fantastic. One of the things that makes the pay better is weekend and shift penalties, without them, it would not be worthwhile to do nursing. Furthermore, most nurses have families and work weekends due to penalty rates. If these were taken it would be very hard to find nurses willing to work weekends and patient care would suffer. Personally if penalty rates were abolished I would no longer work weekends.

Submitted by

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