

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 registered nurse, currently earning around \$36 per hour.

I am a married woman who has been working for the past 30 years with the elderly in the community.

As my position is a permanent part time one, working Monday to Thursday - penalty rates do not apply, however my children work week ends and evenings to make ends meet while studying at university. If penalty rates were abolished for them the impact on their ability to live and study would become very difficult. They both are currently full time students so work week ends and afternoons. By doing this they have not had to access assistance from the government (ie Youth allowance) If penalties were removed there is no doubt that they would have to apply for government assistance.

My weekends are important to me because it is when you actually have quality time with family.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.

Submitted by

Eileen Hetherington

Monday 15th of October 2012