

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 employee, working as a nurse assistant 111, currently earning around \$19.74 per hour.

I am a mature age worker, working in a nursing home and my husband is a pensioner. We still have a mortgage on our house and a car loan to repay.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would probably lose my house and car. The car is a necessity, as we live in a small village at least 25klms from the nearest doctor/hospital,shops and my workplace. There is no public transport and my husband's illness requires regular doctor visits. I work part-time, mainly weekends because the penalties I earn mean that we can live a reasonable life (no luxuries) and pay our bills. I am 62 years of age and the work I do is very physically demanding. I have sacrificed time, (by working weekends) with family and friends, who mostly work

9-5 Mon-Friday just to be able to live, pay our bills and not be in too much debt. If penalty rates go, I would be at least \$300.00 worse off.

My weekends are important to me because...this is when I earn most of my wages, so that I can live and pay my bills. I work the weekends, to be able to be free of debt by the time I retire, when I hope I will then be able to spend more time with family and friends. I chose to work weekends and miss a lot of family get togethers and significant family/friend events, because I do not want to pass on debts to my children. But if there were no penalty rates, why would I sacrifice this time and work weekends?

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Saturday and Sunday are/and probably always will be seen as a time of rest, recuperation and personal time. A time when the majority of working people come together with family and friends and socialise, which is very important to all individuals for physical/mental health. Those who choose/or don't have a choice to work weekends, should receive extra payments for sacrificing those benefits. Also let's not denigrate previous workers, who fought hard to have the weekend recognised as a special time deserving of extra penalty rates. Please keep the weekend penalty rates and not punish a huge section of working Australians.

Submitted by

Lyn Ingram

Sunday 7th of October 2012