Susan Vaughan

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 Nurse RN, currently earning around $38.00 per hour.

I am a wife and mother to a beautiful 7 year old boy .I am a nurse and my husband is an electrician as i am constantly explaining to my child we both have very important jobs but neither of them pay very well so we do not have much money to spare once the mortgage and bills are paid. We are not extravagant and live in a small fibro house. We firmly believe that the best thing you can give a young child growing up is as much of your time as possible and for this reason i work part time i try to work some weekends because it helps getting the penalty rate but this is also the time when is off school so i try too keep a balance. Weekends are still very important to families as this is when kids are home from school.If there were no penalty rates the health service would find it very difficult to get people to work unsocial hours

because there would be no incentive.

If there were no penalty rate i would not work weekends but i would have to work extra hours during the week to make up.I would loose between $300 to $500 dollars a fortnight

My weekends are important to me because... i spend time with my seven year old. Children are only young once we do not get a second chance at this. I have missed important events with my child as i have been working and often get a phone call at work near his bed time asking when i am coming home it breaks my heart but we could not survive with out the extra money i make from penalty rates.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.I am a nurse and i know at the moment my penalty rates are not at risk but i feel everyone who works weekends deserves to be compensated. Weekends are still special many people look forward to going out on a Friday or Saturday night.Kids look forward to being off school parents get time to have fun and do things as a family.These are not things that happen routinely during the week.Weekends are still special to most people and should remain that way.I believe we have already gone too far and given a choice would not have shops open on a Sunday.Everyone is important no matter what they do for a living and of course there will be a few exceptions but i am sure most people who work weekends or unsocial hours do it out of necessity for one reason or another and given the choice would rather spend weekends at home with or out with family and friends.

Submitted by
Susan Vaughan
Saturday 29th of September 2012