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 registered nurse, currently earning around 800 per week.

Family of five (three children 13,15,17) Eldest is about to start Uni next year. We have a morgage and travel expenses as we live rurally. I am not studing because I need to help support my family

If penalty rates were abolished... My partner or I would have to increase work hours, We would have less family time. My partner works shift work, he is more likely to get sick, he is irritable when he finishes his night shifts or a run of 6days

My weekends are important to me because... It is family time. Time to see relatives and friends. It is hard to have consistent activities but weekends are a time when most

people can arrage to have time together. I often attend events on my own because my partner is working - but we are being repaid in penalty rates

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Threre will be less insentive to do shifts and weekends. In terms of nurses - many of my colleuges have stated that they will look for alternative work if this occurs.

Submitted by

Pfitzner Jocelyn

Wednesday 10th of October 2012