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Committee Secretary

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Submission to the Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business-Penalty Rates Exemption) Bill 2012

I am a permanent employee, working as a enrolled nurse, currently earning around 26.78 per hour.

I have two adult children 19,21 who still require my support, 1 works for me in a small business that is providing income for her but is not always reliable as it is in a small rural town, the other has just finished an agriculture diploma and is still finding his feet, my income helps both of these children keep from joining the centrelink line!

If penalty rates were abolished... our hospital would find it difficult to attract staff if the penalty rates were scrapped who would do night shift , weekend work with out extra payments. Teachers, don't attend work on the weekend and they get far more holidays than I do, we are too short staffed to go on leave I currently have 275hours of annual leave owing with more accumulating.

My weekends are important to me because...my family attend football on the weekend in a small rural community its our only avenue for recreation I have missed countless sporting, social occassions because of work and the extra money for penalties doesn't make up for working but it does certainly sweeten the deal.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. as the community will definately realise the next time they need to attend an emergency department at their local hospital it may only operate 9-5 because the ministry of health think people get sick in office hours. I appeal to your sense of logic will your relative need to attend their local hospital out of office hours, think about it, aren't there other ways to save money, help people who have dedicated their whole lives to helping others in their time of need, even if it is out of normal business hours.

Submitted by
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