Lucinda Peters

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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

I am a casual employee, working as a Personal Care Assistant, currently earning around 31.24 per hour.

My name is Lucinda Peters I am living on the beautiful
My husband and I bought my mother's half share of a property I now own in full and pay morgage to n. By working part time at a Aged Care Facility and one weekend day with penalty rates as a Personal Carer I can still pursue my hobby which is dressage riding with my two beautiful horses stabled

If penalty rates were abolished... I would no longer have the means to spend the time needed training my horse to Advanced Level as my time would be spent as an AIN working extra shifts to make up for the loss of penalty rates on my current saturday.

This shift pays our food, most of our household bills and ammenities and would reduce from $205.26 almost by half of this which would make it impossible to cover my expenses.

My weekends are important to me because...I would dearly love to compete my horse and do casual trail rides on a saturday being every riders favourite ride day however because this is my main source of income saturday with penalty rates. I sadly have to allow my friends and leasees to ride for me on this day.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. The loss of the penalty rates will certainly leave small business short staffed and many nurses contemplating and leaving the profession all together. As we are aware it is currently difficult to attract nurses back into the profession and this pay cut will certainly cement that problem into the future. Our profession is a highly skilled, specialised area that requires committment and dedication. I myself working as a Personal Carer and Assistant in Nursing for more than 20 years am so diappointed that our work is not being recognised or justified important by having a pay rise instead we are being told by this bill that in fact everything we do is meaningless. Our future generation of nurses and carers will be lost. It is unfortunate and ridiculous that this bill be presented and if passed will be creating even more problems in the industry that is already so fragile.

Submitted by
Lucinda Peters
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