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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 Nurse, currently earning around $20 per hour.

I am 64yrs. old. I have raised a family of 5 children. I am a nurse working in aged care. I work part time including every second weekend.

If penalty rates were abolished, I would have to work full time hours, as I rely on weekend penalty rates to give me an affordable income.

The weekends that I have off are important to me because this is the time I spend with my children, grandchildren and friends. I have missed out on so many family occasions, over the years of working weekends. When my children were growing up, I had to rely on their friends parents, to take them to their junior footy games and netball

games. I feel that my children and I have missed out on special family time and now I am missing out on spending more time with my grandchildren.

It was the retail sector, who pushed for weekend opening hours. Their intention was for more profit, they were unconcerned about the impact on their employee's personal / family lives. Businesses who wish to operate on weekends, must pay their staff penalty rates to compensate them for the huge loss of spending their time with their family. This is more important than than their profits. If this bill is passed, what next Christmas Day, Easter penalties go? No! Penalties must stay! I urge the committee to keep penalty rates, to show the value they place on families.

Submitted by
Alice Lydall
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