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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 Nurse, currently earning around 33 per hour.

I am in the last few years of my working life. I need to earn a living wage to pay my bills snd to save for my retirement. I haven't been able yo save for my retirement as I looked after my children when they were young and sacrificed my career and earning capacity in the process.

If penalty rates were abolished...
I would not work in the afternoons, nights or weekends. Why would I want to work anti social hours.
Who will look after the sick if nurses lose penalty rates? Presently, there is an obvious lack of nurses in aged care due to wage differences between hospitals and aged care facilities and the underfunding of aged care and the excessive work loads.

My weekends are important to me because...my friends typically work regular hours and we socialise at nights and on week ends.
I have frequently missed out on special events necause I have worked anti-social hours.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.
1. My son is a poorly paid chef & needs the penalty rates to earn a living wage.
2. Nurses need penalty rates to stay in the industry.
3. Employers need to pay penalty rates to keep the best employees or the good ones eg nurses will move to other better paying health jobs.
4. What will happen to the accident & emergency departments hospitals if there sre reduced staff. Are more deaths acceptable?

Submitted by
Morag Williams
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