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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 Registered Nurse, currently earning around $35 per hour.

I have a mortgage and support my partner, who is currently studying at uni. I work every weekend and half of my shifts are night shifts in order to ensure I can actually afford to live, as my partner is not eligible for Austudy. My entire family and most of my friends work normal Monday-Friday jobs and I rarely get to see them as it is.

If penalty rates were abolished, I would refuse to work weekends at all - why should I sacrifice my family and social life for nothing? I would lose an enormous amount of money a fortnight and would need to work almost 2 full time jobs in order to make the same amount I do working weekends. Not to mention my working weekends allows others who can afford not to work those shifts to spend time with their own families and

friends.

My weekends are important to me because I have forgotten what it is like to have a normal life - the last time I did, I was in high school.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. You are already having trouble maintaining nursing staff levels with the ageing population, and I can guarantee that you will lose a lot more if we don't even have the benefit of penalty rates on the weekends.

Submitted by
Emma Pollock
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